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Bosnian Serbs Release 2 Downed French Pilots

Ordeal Ends as Rebel Commander Heeds Ultimatum From Belgrade

By Jane Perlez
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — Two French pilots, held by the Bosnian Serbs for more than three months and at times feared dead, were freed Tuesday by their captor, General Ratko Mladic, who personally handed them over to the French military at a riverside motel in Bosnia.

The release of the pilots, Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat, who were shot down when their Mirage-2000 was hit by a Bosnian Serbian missile during a North Atlantic Treaty Organization raid on Aug. 30, cleared a last obstacle that threatened to overshadow the formal signing of the Bosnia peace accord in Paris on Thursday.

The pilots looked dazed as they stepped out of a jeep in the town of Zvornik and walked into the Jezero Motel to be greeted by the French chief of staff, General Jean Philippe Drouin, and General Mladic at a ceremony organized by the Bosnian Serb.

But in a brief telephone conversation with French television, one of the pilots, Lieutenant Souvignat, said they had been "well cared for."

"I had some pain in my leg," he said, "but they had very good doctors."

As the signing of the Bosnia peace agreement approached, President Jacques Chirac of France stepped up the pressure on President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, threatening unspecified but serious action if the pilots were not released, and enrolling Washington, Bonn and Moscow in a diplomatic campaign.

Western diplomats said that the release illustrated again the power Mr. Milosevic maintains over the Bosnian Serbs.

Mr. Chirac, facing domestic pressure on the fate of the pilots, thanked Mr. Milosevic and President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia for their help in securing the pilots' freedom.

In Belgrade, Serbian officials interpreted the release as another victory for Mr. Milosevic as he embraces the West and attempts to show that he can deliver on the terms of the peace agreement he will sign on Thursday along with President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia.

According to officials here, Mr. Milo-

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Lieutenant Souvignat and Captain Chiffot on Tuesday after their release by the Bosnian Serbs.

Huge Protest Emboldens Leaders of French Strike

New Demonstrations Set As Workers Start to Call For Juppé's Resignation

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

PARIS — A day after Prime Minister Alain Juppé backed down on several key aspects of his economic austerity plan, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators marched throughout France on Tuesday to demand not only abandonment of the reform package but also his resignation.

Mr. Juppé responded with a speech in Parliament after the demonstrations died down, vowing to push ahead with his reform "gradually and with consultation."

But, he added, "There is no serious alternative to the reform I proposed."

In the streets, the protest moved into its 19th day Tuesday and the categories of services it has immobilized widened.

More than 40 percent of unionized teachers continued to strike even after their leaders recommended that they go back to work. The rail workers' union, which started the protest movement, said it was extending its strike by at least 24 hours. And sanitation workers in several cities joined the movement, too.

With so many workers joining the demonstrations, union leaders appeared to harden their demands.

"The balance of power is on my side and on the side of all unions, so it is going to continue," said Marc Blondel, the head of Workers' Force, a leader of the strike action.

At the start of a march by at least 60,000 people in Paris, Mr. Blondel added, "With a demonstration this big, you can't imagine we're going to drop our pants."

In a statement reflecting the government's hope that sooner or later the protest will lose steam, Alain Lamassoure, Mr. Juppé's spokesman told the Europe 1 radio station, "One may hope that things should get better," particularly as talks with union leaders are expected to continue Wednesday.

But many of the protest leaders made it clear that they were holding out now for the elimination of the entire reform package, which includes new taxes, cuts in health benefits and a higher retirement age, and are hoping for increased wages and more generous benefits.

"There is one objective now: the withdrawal of the Juppé plan," said Louis Viannet, head of the General Confederation of Labor, the other major union leading the strike.

In protests Tuesday, Marseilles saw its largest demonstration since the 1968 student-worker upheaval.

More than 100,000 marchers demanded the cancellation of the government's program and many shouted "Juppé you're sunk," "Juppé resign" or "Juppé, make the bosses pay."

Strike leaders said 50,000 had marched in Bordeaux, 80,000 in Toulouse, 35,000 in Rouen, 20,000 each in Le Mans, Nantes and Rennes, 25,000 in Le Havre, 11,000 in Dijon, 16,000 in Caen and 15,000 each in Avignon, Perpignan, Nice and Saint-Nazaire.

All told, the unions said they had 1.7 million people on the streets, while the government said the figure was closer to 560,000.

In Bordeaux and Toulouse, mountains of garbage piled up as sanitation workers joined the protest. In most cities, parents were being turned away at schools as they brought young children to the gates.

Ferry services to Corsica were pared to just one crossing a day, and many ports remained shut.

Newspapers failed to appear throughout the country as delivery unions joined the action.

Air traffic controllers, who have struck several times before, did so again, forcing the cancellation of almost half the scheduled flights as well as many delays.

Millions of people, particularly in the greater Paris region, continued to live with what has become a daily routine — traffic gridlock with cars moving no faster than 5 miles an hour (8 kilometers an hour), pedestrians standing by roadsides to hitch a ride to work or home, and raw nerves.

The strike forced the government to

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Syria Shows Hope and Caution as Peres Urges Cooperation

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — A call here Tuesday by Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel for Syria to join with his country to "negotiate relentlessly" for regionwide peace drew a cautious welcome from officials in Damascus.

Mr. Peres, in his first U.S. visit since the assassination last month of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, made an impassioned plea for peace before a joint session of Congress.

ready to overcome "mountains of suspicion" in its quest for peace with Syria and its client state, Lebanon.

In Damascus, a senior Syrian official told Reuters that Mr. Peres's words were welcome, but added, "we need to see if there is anything new regarding full withdrawal from the Golan."

SGB — Syrian state radio commented Tuesday that "hopes have been revived for a new impetus in the peace process following the telephone conversation before peace before a joint session of Congress between President Clinton and Assad and in press. He said, grave things are being done forward in Wash-

ington by the Israeli prime minister," Agency France-Press reported.

Israeli-Syrian peace talks broke off in June when Israel insisted on leaving early-warning posts behind in the Golan Heights, and Syria said that nothing less than a full withdrawal would do.

That position was reiterated Tuesday by the Syrian official.

He said that Damascus was awaiting a visit this week by the U.S. secretary of state, Warren M. Christopher, before judging whether talks can be resumed.

"Without illusion, but with resolve,"

Mr. Peres said, "we shall stand ready to make demanding decisions if you are. We shall negotiate relentlessly until all gaps are bridged."

He received several prolonged ovations in this, the fourth appearance by an Israeli leader before a joint session of Congress.

On Monday, President Bill Clinton said that Damascus appeared to be more receptive to peace talks since the Rabin assassination.

"As sad as it is to say," Mr. Clinton said, "I think the Syrian leader and the Syrian people now see the exceptional price that

former Prime Minister Rabin and Prime Minister Peres have been willing to pay in their search for peace."

Mr. Assad had telephoned Mr. Clinton on Monday as the U.S. president was having lunch with Mr. Peres.

On Tuesday, Peres told members of Congress that the task ahead would not be easy.

He described an air of unusual cooperation in his recent talks with King Hussein of Jordan, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Dissident's New Trial Casts Unsettling Pall Over China

By Steven Mufson
Washington Post Service

BEIJING — Nine years ago this month, China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, urged Communist Party leaders to take a hard line against domestic critics, without concern for the country's international image.

"Didn't we arrest Wei Jingsheng?" Mr. Deng asked rhetorically about the democracy activist who was sentenced to a 15-year prison term in 1979. "We arrested him and haven't let him go, yet China's image has not suffered."

This week, China's leaders put Mr. Wei on trial again, on charges of trying to overthrow the government.

And many China-watchers say they worry that the trial portends a resurgence among China's hard-line leadership toward violating with impunity internationally recognized standards of human rights.

"There's no way that this can help China internationally," said Richard Baum, a political scientist at the University of Cal-

ifornia in Los Angeles. "It's an unsettling sign, a jarring occurrence for a regime trying to portray itself as having joined the international community."

Like many political prisoners, Mr. Wei's reputation and stature have been growing the longer he sits in prison. While many other Chinese political activists have put aside politics to pursue business, Mr. Wei has remained an uncompromising advocate of democracy for China. In the last decade, he has become China's most prominent dissident.

Mr. Wei's trial, scheduled for Wednesday at Beijing's Intermediate Court, has mobilized groups anxious about the outcome, which could carry punishment ranging from 10 years in prison to the death penalty.

Human-rights groups are prodding the U.S. Congress to adopt a resolution calling for Mr. Wei's release and are pressing the Clinton administration to take a strong stand in defense.

The dissident's sister, Wei Shanshan, who lives in Germany, flew to the United

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NABLUS CELEBRATES ISRAELI'S DEPARTURE — From jail, residents watching street celebrations.

AGENDA

UN Calls for End to Nuclear Tests

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The General Assembly on Tuesday called for an immediate end to nuclear weapons tests.

The text of a resolution, which "strongly deplores" the current testing by France and China, does not name the two countries specifically, but calls for an "immediate cessation of all nuclear testing."

The vote, 85 to 18, with 43 abstentions, was presaged by a vote Nov. 16 by the General Assembly's disarmament and international security committee deploring nuclear testing. (Reuters, AFP)

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Thais Twist Arms, Over a Missile

Ovary Reimplant Technique Makes Rapid Strides

By Gina Kolata
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — To help women with cancer avoid infertility caused by radiation and chemotherapy, a group of American doctors is offering to remove an ovary before a patient undergoes treatment, and reimplant a portion of it later.

The speed with which doctors have moved from animal experiments to potentially widespread use of this operation has surprised some medical experts. So far, at least four patients in England have had

an ovary removed and frozen. No ovaries have yet been replaced. And last week, the Genetics and IVF Institute in Fairfax, Virginia, sent out letters to thousands of cancer specialists offering their patients the chance to have the operation.

Chemotherapy and radiation often destroy women's ovaries. The hope is that if an ovary is removed and frozen it will function normally when it is replaced, allowing the woman to become pregnant.

Tens of thousands of women of child-bearing age undergo chemotherapy and radiation each year, according to the Amer-

ican Cancer Society. And the offer by the Virginia doctors to remove an ovary from almost any such patient for \$3,000 to \$4,000, surprised ethicists and medical experts, who were unaware that the work had moved ahead so quickly. The first removals of ovaries in England were done even before reports of successful work in animals had been published.

"It is one of those amazing areas where science marches on and almost the unthinkable becomes doable," said Berna-

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A People Who Glorify Literature Slip in the Charts

By Marlies Simons
New York Times Service

PARIS — People of the land of Racine and Molière, of Hugo and Balzac, of Proust and Sartre frequently cannot grasp what they read, according to a new study that concludes that some literary skills in France are far worse than those in some other major European countries and the United States.

But the French need not worry about being embarrassed by the report. When French officials studied its preliminary conclusions two months ago, they were so incensed that they insisted that all references to France be excised from the 200-page document, "Literacy, Society, and Economy," which was published in Paris last week. The survey, which set out to test how literacy skills

relate to job success and economic performance, judged reading comprehension in the form of, say, an office memorandum, of documents like tables, nutritional charts and train schedules, and of day-to-day mathematical calculations.

"The results show that a disturbing proportion of adults in all countries have low literacy skills," said the report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which is based in Paris.

But the results varied widely by country. For example, in the portion of the study examining the ability to understand and use written information, 7.5 percent of the adults in Sweden, 10.5 percent in the Netherlands, 14.4 percent in Germany, 15.3 percent in Switzerland, 16.6 percent in Canada, and 20.7 percent in the United States scored in the lowest of five proficiency levels.

By these same criteria, 40.1 percent of France's adult population were placed in the lowest level, only marginally better than Poland, with 42.6 percent, according to the Paris newspaper *Liberation*, which first reported France's withdrawal from the study. The section featured questions on articles ranging from topics like movie reviews to disposable diapers.

The newly expurgated study reported only the results of detailed tests of some 1,500 to 1,800 adults between the ages of 16 and 65 in seven countries — Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, the United States, and Poland.

"Only the French censored the results, which is tantamount to refusing to acknowledge the truth staring

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Newstand Prices

Andorra	10.00 FF	Luxembourg	85 L Fr
Armenia	12.50 FF	Morocco	14 Dh
Australia	1.600 CFA	Qatar	1,000 Rials
Bahamas	10.00 FF	Reunion	12.50 FF
Bangladesh	10.00 FF	Saudi Arabia	10.00 R
Belgium	11.00 CFA	Senegal	1,100 CFA
Belize	350 Dr	Spain	225 PTAS
Bolivia	2,800 Lira	Turkey	1,250 Lira
Brazil	1,250 JD	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Canada	1.250 JD	U.S. Mex (Eur)	\$.120

Dow Jones

Down	9.40
5174.92	

The Dollar

New York	Time close	previous close
DM	1.4473	1.4444
Pound	1.5335	1.5335
Yen	101.775	101.15
FF	4.9973	4.9865

Trib Index

Up	0.34%
131.13	

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The Making of a Quagmire / One Year and 20,000 Lives Later

Yeltsin Heads the Casualty List in Chechnya

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A year after 40,000 Russian soldiers poured into the separatist region of Chechnya, Moscow's biggest and deadliest military action since Afghanistan continues to take its toll in lives, property and the political health of President Boris N. Yeltsin's government.

Critics say Mr. Yeltsin, who has called the war the greatest disappointment of his presidency, has squandered much of his international prestige and lost considerable moral standing at home by prosecuting a war that by conservative estimates has cost 20,000 lives, most of them civilian.

Even now, after 12 months of fighting, terrible images of violence — of charred bodies, limping amputees, gaunt refugees, artillery rounds smashing into the hills — are seen nightly on television in Russian living rooms. The Chechnya quagmire 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) south of Moscow marks "the failure of Russia to become a real democratic and multinational state," said New Times, a Moscow magazine. "Let's hope it's failed only for the time being."

It also has underlined the weakness of Russia's new democratic institutions. Parliament was broadly opposed to the war but, lacking real constitutional clout, balked at confronting the president. The Constitutional Court, Russia's highest, waited seven months before rendering its decision on the war, rejecting the arguments of a group of lawmakers who said the war was illegal.

But above all, the war has become Mr. Yeltsin's mess.

The president, who has had three prolonged hospitalizations since the war began, is now unpopular in practically every part of Russia. He is widely regarded as unelectable should he decide to run in June for a second term. Most observers believe the war in Chechnya has played a part in his political slide.

Moreover, since troops were ordered into Chechnya a year ago, Mr. Yeltsin's government has become more insular and less responsive to domestic and Western opinion.

Mr. Yeltsin set the tone for much of this. At the start of the war he entered a hospital for what was described as a minor nose operation. Nothing was heard from him for two weeks as Russian forces rocketed villages and bombed Grozny, the Chechen capital.

When the president emerged at the end of December, he announced that he had ordered a halt to the bombing raids on civilian areas. The next day, Russian planes returned to Grozny and destroyed an orphanage. The president demanded an "explanation," but none was given — a pattern that has been repeated.

On New Year's Eve, Kremlin officials said



Russian soldiers hoisting a ballot box into the back of a truck in Grozny. The box, for elections Sunday, went to an army base.

there would be no attack on Grozny. That night, the city was stormed — unsuccessfully. Senior Russian officials announced many times that the war had been won and the rebels routed. It was never true.

Finally, it seemed, many Russians simply shut their eyes to the war, wishing it would go away. Villages were rocketed, soldiers ambushed, pensioners slaughtered, all without provoking an outcry. People only took real notice in June when the Chechen rebels struck back by taking hundreds of Russian civilians hostage in the southern town of Budennovsk.

In the current campaign for parliamentary elections this Sunday, most candidates and voters are ignoring the Chechen conflict, preferring to discuss Russia's economic crisis.

"People don't talk about it," said Vladimir Vagin, a pollster in the Russian city of Pskov. "It's like it's going on in another world."

In interviews, many Russians say they wished the troops would just withdraw from Chechnya and let the region go. But many others suggest bitterly that Moscow's attempt

to squash Chechnya's bid for independence has been too soft.

"It would be O.K. with me if we just went in there and executed 2,000 of them," said a tractor driver in the southern Siberian city of Kemerovo who gave his name as Gennady. "I think they should just be exterminated."

Last month, Mr. Yeltsin ordered that elections for a new regional government in Chechnya should coincide with Sunday's national parliamentary elections — an order that now appears to have been overtaken by events in Grozny.

Then, last week, the Kremlin entered into what it called a "power-sharing agreement" with local authorities in Chechnya who were installed by Moscow: The region will have "special status" while remaining a part of the Russian Federation. It will be allowed to open its own missions abroad, conduct foreign trade and exercise a measure of independence in its economic life.

None of these steps are likely to have much effect on the war, however.

The rebels have promised to disrupt the elections. Since that threat was issued, two huge car bombs have exploded in the center of Grozny and fighting has picked up.

The rebels still insist on total sovereignty and the withdrawal of all Russian forces.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which has tried in vain to broker a peace deal in the region, has said

the elections in Chechnya are "premature." Still, the Kremlin appears to be pressing ahead.

In Moscow, meanwhile, the climate of decision-making remains tainted by Chechnya, and Mr. Yeltsin's circle of advisers has been steadily shrinking. It started well before the war began, but after Russian troops entered Chechnya, Mr. Yeltsin's contacts became more sharply limited. Yegor T. Gaidar, the former prime minister and pro-Western economist on whom Mr. Yeltsin relied early in his presidency, broke with him. Other liberals who formed the core of Mr. Yeltsin's support in 1991 and 1992 found themselves unwelcome in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin's remaining aides have tended to speak with one voice about the need to press on with the war. One of the most prominent among them is the defense minister, General Pavel S. Grachev, who at one point said that Russian troops were dying "with smiles on their lips" in Chechnya.

For months General Grachev scoffed at every move toward a peaceful settlement and was an advocate of all-out war at any cost. Then, last Thursday, he stunned even the most cynical Russians when he told journalists: "Now, a year later, I can say that I have never been so supportive of armed action, especially in the hard way it was carried out in Chechnya. As a soldier, I had to carry out orders, however."

COMING UP
Lyudmila and Sergei Zverev, 72 and 69, are getting Russian pensions after careers as aircraft engineers. But they are still stunned by the collapse of the social system to which they devoted their lives.

A 'Smoking Gun' In Whitewater?

Aide Had Rose Firm Files

By Stephen Labaton
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — During the 1992 presidential campaign, Vincent W. Foster Jr. removed files from Hillary Rodham Clinton's law firm about work she and other lawyers had done for the savings association owned by the Clintons' partner in the Whitewater land venture.

The removal of the files, made public by the Senate Whitewater committee, raised new questions about the steps taken by the Clinton campaign to defuse Whitewater as an issue.

The files were later turned over to Webster L. Hubbell, who stored them in the basement of his Washington home while serving as associate attorney general, according to David E. Kendall, the Clintons' personal lawyer, who testified before the Senate Whitewater panel.

The files were not returned to the Rose Law Firm, which had been unaware of their removal, until November 1993, after two investigations into Whitewater matters had begun and the issue had resurfaced as a potential problem for the White House.

The files returned to the law firm contained no bombshells, and Mr. Kendall told the Senate panel Monday that nothing improper had been done with them. He said the original files were taken from the law firm to enable the campaign to field inquiries about Whitewater and the savings association from news organizations. But he said he did not know why Mr. Foster had taken the original law firm files, rather than make copies.

Republicans on the Whitewater committee, who have been investigating Mrs. Clinton's role in the collapse of Madison Guaranty, the savings association, said the removal of the files was highly unusual and might have been intended by the campaign to conceal information. And they said the files could have provided the motive for Mrs. Clinton to try to prevent investigations from examining papers in Mr. Foster's office after his suicide in 1993.

"People ask us, what is there in Vincent Foster's files that the White House would want to conceal?" said Michael Chertoff, the chief counsel for the Republicans.

Mr. Kendall said that so far as he knew, the files were never in Mr. Foster's White House office.

The files consisted mostly of documents having to do with efforts by the Madison Guaranty to win approval from state regulators to raise money. Some of the papers contain passing references to Mrs. Clinton. But investigators have been trying to trace the trail of the files and determine whether any papers may have been destroyed by the Clinton campaign.

When the Whitewater issue first arose during the campaign, Bill Clinton and campaign aides were questioned by reporters about the role Mrs. Clinton played. While acknowledging that Mrs. Clinton had represented Madison in its request to a state regulator appointed by Mr. Clinton, then the Arkansas governor, for permission to try an unusual stock offering, the Clintons and their aides described that work as minimal.

More recently, accounting records from the Rose firm made available by investigators show that she billed more for work on Madison matters than anyone else at the firm except for one junior associate. Madison collapsed and was seized by the federal government in 1989 at a cost to taxpayers of more than \$60 million. Examiners found that the savings association was rife with insider dealing and fraudulent transactions.

After a rush of attention in March 1992, interest in Whitewater faded. But when Clinton campaign officials came to Washington to take up administration posts, the files Mr. Foster had removed from the Rose firm came with them.

In earlier appearances before the committee, Mr. Hubbell has said he stored many campaign files in his basement because he believed they would continue to be kept confidential as a matter of attorney-client privilege so long as they were in his possession. The files were turned over to Mr. Kendall in November 1993, soon after he was retained to represent the Clintons.

The removal of the Rose Law Firm files by the campaign was discovered last week when the law firm turned over to congressional investigators a November 1993 letter from Mr. Kendall to Jerry C. Jones, a partner at the firm. In the letter, Mr. Kendall said he was returning the three Madison files, noting that they "were among the late Vincent Foster's files."

"They appear to me to be files of Rose Law Firm documents," the letter said.

After the hearing, Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato, Republican of New York, who heads the committee, called Mr. Kendall's letter "a smoking gun" and said that the removal of the files from the Rose firm provided new clues about why Mrs. Clinton had tried to block investigators from going through Mr. Foster's files.

Chechnya Voting Early to Thwart Disruption

MOSCOW — The parliament in Chechnya advanced the start of voting in national and local elections by three days Tuesday in an attempt to keep them on track despite threats of disruption by separatists.

Both the Russia-wide election and the one for a Chechen leader had been scheduled Sunday under plans to restore order to the region.

But, the Itar-Tass press agency re-

ported, the parliament in the regional capital of Grozny had decided that Chechens could begin voting Thursday instead.

The legislature also gave residents the right to vote without first registering at any polling station, including a number of mobile ones.

It was not clear whether the decree by the parliament, which was dissolved in 1991 by a separatist leader, Dzokhar Dudayev, and reconvened

with Moscow's approval earlier this year, had been approved by the central electoral commission in Moscow.

Chechnya boycotted the previous parliamentary elections in Russia in December 1993 and Moscow sees this vote as a means of consolidating its hold in the region and weakening Mr. Dudayev.

Since the rebels have pledged to disrupt the elections, many Chechens are afraid to take part.

David Marshall, 87, a Major Figure In Singapore's Independence, Dies

SINGAPORE — David Marshall, a major figure in Singapore's struggle for independence and early development, died Tuesday. He was 87.

Mr. Marshall was elected to lead Singapore, then ruled by Britain, in 1955. His Labor Front coalition won the first election that gave the island a measure of self-government.

He resigned the next year when constitutional talks for greater self-rule broke down. But he remained a member of parliament, where he criticized the authoritarian tendencies of the People's Action Party, which came to power in 1959, led the country to full independence in 1963 and continues to rule.

In 1978, at the age of 70, he retired as a lawyer and was appointed ambassador to France, Spain, Portugal and Switzerland, a post he held for 15 years.

When he returned to Singa-

pore, he became an active campaigner for freedom of speech and a free press, blaming the government-controlled media for, he said, conditioning citizens not to question authority.

He also complained that the government encouraged entrepreneurship and business success, while stifling freedom of speech.

Karl Schrag, 82, Painter and Printmaker

NEW YORK (NYT) — Karl Schrag, a German-born American painter and printmaker whose work combined aspects of European and American modernism, died Sunday at his home in New York City. He was 82.

In a career that spanned more than 60 years, Mr. Schrag came to specialize in a painting style characterized by loose, energetic brushwork and resonant colors that restated the concerns of van Gogh, Matisse, and Kirchner.

Henry Odera-Orika, 56, Kenyan Philosopher

NAIROBI (Reuters) — Henry Odera-Orika, a leading Kenyan philosopher, was killed by a car in Nairobi last weekend, the University of Nairobi announced Tuesday. Mr. Odera-Orika, 56, was best known for his book "Sage Philosophy," in which he argued that some of the best thoughts and doctrines came from "old men, through experience, learnt in time," and in which he defended their right to express such wisdom.

Ann Nolan Clark, an award-winning writer of children's books, mostly about her Indian students, died Wednesday in Tucson, Arizona, the day after her 99th birthday. In 1952, she won the Newberry Medal from the American Library Association.

TRAVEL UPDATE

In France, Count on Shank's Mare

PARIS (Reuters) — The following is a summary of the disruption caused Tuesday on Day 19 of the strikes:

- There were no trains nationwide. Public transport remained at a virtual standstill in Paris and many provincial cities. Only 3 percent of Paris buses were running. The leading CGT rail union voted to continue the strike for at least another 24 hours, saying concessions on pensions did not go far enough. Eurostar trains remained canceled between Paris and London, and just five return Eurostar trains between Brussels and London were scheduled.

- Giant traffic jams again clogged approaches to the capital.
- The Athis-Mons control center, responsible for air traffic over Paris, closed briefly. Delays of up to an hour were expected and some flights were canceled.

- Striking fire fighters forced the capital's second airport at Orly to shut down briefly. Regional airports of Chambéry and Montpellier also closed.

- Ferry services between Marseille and Corsica were reduced to one crossing.

The QE2 Skips France for Belgium

ZEEBRUGGE, Belgium (Reuters) — The QE2 luxury liner shunned strike-bound France on Tuesday, taking passengers expecting a shopping trip in Paris to Belgium.

The cruiser, on a short trip from Southampton, had been due at the French port of Le Havre and offer passengers a day in Paris, before going to Amsterdam.

"With Paris check-a-block with strikes we came to Zeebrugge instead," said Rony Brown of Cunard.

Lufthansa, Germany's flagship air carrier, has agreed to cooperate with the Slovenian airline Adria Airways, Lufthansa said Tuesday. Under the agreement, which goes into force Jan. 1, Lufthansa and Adria will coordinate their flight plans to improve connections between Germany and Slovenia. (AP)

Trams will trundle along Dublin's streets for the first time in 40 years under a 200 million Irish punt (\$317 million) plan unveiled Tuesday. The project is aimed at easing the road and rail system between the capital and key suburbs by providing electric-powered trams. (Reuters)

South African Airways will again serve Argentina after an absence of 15 years, during which bilateral relations chilled due to racial separation in South Africa. (AFP)

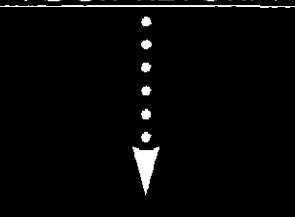
Tens of thousands of public service workers in Brussels are expected to march against austerity Wednesday and vent their fears of job losses in the privatization of state companies. Union leaders expect up to 50,000 protesters to descend on the capital in what union leaders called a day of protest, not a strike. (AP)

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THE AMERICAS

Farmers' Lament: It Takes 2 to Make a Home on the Range

By Dirk Johnson
New York Times Service

JAMESTOWN, North Dakota — In the stillness of the frozen prairie, David Gasal walked along the snowy wheat fields with his constant companion: a rust-colored dog named Snickers, and ruminated about sunsets and songbirds and loneliness.

"I like to listen to the blue jays and watch the sunsets," said the 40-year-old farmer. "I like the quiet, too. I just wish I had somebody to share it with."

As women have become scarce in rural America, drawn to bigger towns and cities for careers, the men left behind on farms are facing a difficult time finding marriage partners. This epidemic of bachelorhood has led some towns, like Herman, Minnesota, to advertise their surplus of marriageable men in hope of attracting female suitors.

To help lonely hearts on the farm, several singles directories have

emerged for rural people. One, published by Farm Journal earlier this year, drew more than 4,300 entries, nearly double the number in a similar directory published by the magazine a decade earlier.

"We had assumed — evidently wrongly — that rural America had become less isolated due to the explosion in communication technology," said Karen Freiberg, the managing editor of Farm Journal. "In matters of the heart, just the opposite appears to be occurring."

In Farm Journal's directory, about 77 percent of the entries came from men. In urban areas' dating directories, women typically outnumber men by a wide margin.

Indeed, finding a decent, eligible man in his late 30s or early 40s, some women say, is about as easy as winning the lottery.

But in the remote corners of America, there is a good man or two left. Mr. Gasal, a fourth-generation farmer,

seems to be one of them. A patient, well-spoken man with the rugged physique of a football player, at 6 feet 3 inches and 215 pounds (1.9 meters and 97 kilograms), he does not smoke cigarettes, chew tobacco or take drugs.

He frequents the church more often than the saloon. He takes good care of his mother. He even gave shelter to Snickers, who had been abused and abandoned. He is interested in art and photography and belongs to the Audubon Society. "I don't hunt animals," he said. "I would rather take pictures of them."

What does the bachelor farmer hope to find in a woman?

"Well, I don't care about hair color, as long as it's not dyed something weird," Mr. Gasal said. "Also, I wouldn't feel comfortable with someone who was interested in body-piercing. And, I guess it would be nice if they're not grossly overweight."

He would like to meet a woman willing to live on a farm. It would be

nice if she would want to help run it. But if she wanted a career other than agriculture, he said, that would suit him just fine, too.

"Sometimes, I think the city girls find the farming life more appealing, since they sometimes have romantic ideas about it," Mr. Gasal said. "The girls who grew up in the country, they know a little too much about the struggles and hardships."

In fact, after Farm Journal compiled its directory, the magazine got a barrage of calls and letters from women in cities who complained that they would have liked a chance to participate in the directory in the hopes of meeting a nice farmer.

Mr. Gasal has lived all of his life on the farm, but has traveled throughout much of the United States.

With other members of an art appreciation class he took at nearby Jamestown College a few years ago, he visited New York and was impressed by the art galleries in SoHo,

the plays on Broadway, the architecture.

As he neared 40, it began to bother him that he might not find a partner.

"I don't want to be a bachelor, sitting around by myself," he said. "I'd really like to share my life with somebody. Maybe have kids. Have someone carry on my name, maybe even carry on the farm."

He lives in a 96-year-old farmhouse with his mother, Lois, who is also eager for him to marry.

A generation ago and more, there were many more farm families, and more ways for people to get to know each other. There were barn dances, church picnics, card parties. Most of that has gone by the wayside.

In Farm Journal's directory, the biggest share of entries came from Iowa, followed by Illinois. But there were bachelor farmers from Canada and all but two states, Rhode Island and Hawaii. The oldest entrant was an 88-year-old man from Indiana.

POLITICAL NOTES

For Segretti, the Joke Is on Him

NEWPORT BEACH, California — Donald Segretti, convicted political prankster and would-be candidate for judge, found out just how large Watergate still looms among local voters. Now he has quit the race.

Mr. Segretti, who last week declared himself a candidate for Superior Court judge, said the reaction was so negative that he decided to drop out. He said he did not want to drag his family through another public retelling of his old misdeeds.

"They all wanted to talk about Nixon and Watergate," Mr. Segretti said. "It really hit a raw nerve."

A 53-year-old lawyer and former Nixon political operative, Mr. Segretti had said he thought he would be an ideal candidate for the job. He has been a military prosecutor, a civil lawyer — and, of course, a defendant.

But it was his work as a Nixon "dirty trickster" that Mr. Segretti found difficult to overcome. During the 1972 presidential campaign, he took part in an effort to discredit Mr. Nixon's Democratic political opponents. (LAT)

For Magruder, New Voting Rights

FRANKFORT, Kentucky — As one of his last official acts, Governor Brenton Jones restored voting rights to Jeb Stuart Magruder, a Watergate conspirator.

Mr. Magruder, now a minister, spent seven months in prison for trying to cover up the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1972. The break-in and cover-up led to the fall of Richard Nixon's presidency.

Even though Mr. Magruder was convicted of a federal crime — obstruction of justice — Mr. Jones apparently had the authority to restore Mr. Magruder's right to vote. (AP)

Waldholtz: I Let Down My Guard

SALT LAKE CITY — Representative Enid Waldholtz, Republican of Utah, has declared herself the unwitting victim of a con man husband who embezzled money, defrauded banks and violated federal election laws.

The Republican freshman told reporters that she had once been deeply in love with her husband, Joseph, but had come to discover "that everything I'd known" about him "was a lie."

Mrs. Waldholtz added that, in retrospect, it had been a huge mistake to entrust her personal and campaign finances to her husband. "This is the one area of my life where I completely let down my guard," she said.

Joseph Waldholtz is due to appear Friday before a federal grand jury investigating the case. (WP)

Giuliani: No to a Gun Ban Repeal

NEW YORK — Warning against a growing movement among Republicans in Congress to repeal the ban on assault weapons, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City has taken the unusual step of a joining gun-control advocates at a news conference to denounce such a repeal.

Mr. Giuliani said that if anything, the ban should be extended. "To try to have a rollback so that weapons that kill the maximum number of people in a minimum amount of time can be more available would be a terrible, terrible mistake," he said at a City Hall news conference. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Senator Joseph Biden, Democrat of Delaware, as the Senate prepared to vote on a measure giving Congress the power to prohibit physical desecration of the flag: "Although the flag may stand alone, it should not and it cannot stand above our most cherished freedom of speech." (AP)

New York May End Parole for The Violent

By Clifford J. Levy
New York Times Service

ALBANY, New York — Stepping up his campaign for stricter penal laws, Governor George E. Pataki has announced that he will introduce legislation to abolish parole for even first-time violent offenders.

He also asked the Legislature to approve construction of the first new maximum-security prison in the state in a decade to handle the increase inmates that would result from the new sentences.

If Mr. Pataki's proposal became law, New York would join 11 other states in doing away with parole for its worst offenders, a change that the governor maintained would reduce crime by keeping felons behind bars longer.

But as happened earlier this year when the governor successfully pushed to cut off parole for repeat violent offenders, some judges, criminal justice experts and Democratic officials immediately criticized the plan as too inflexible, costly and severe.

Mr. Pataki's move to abolish parole for all violent offenders was included in a criminal-justice package that he is to introduce on Friday as part of his budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Pataki also proposed harsher sentences for people convicted of sexual assault on children, gang violence, gun trafficking, assaults on police officers and crimes that involve guns.

But the call to revamp parole policy and build a new maximum-security prison drew particular attention because the state is facing a \$4 billion budget gap that will most likely force sharp cuts in many social programs. The new prison might cost up to \$150 million.



A three-story home toppling into the sinkhole that opened up in a fashionable San Francisco neighborhood near Golden Gate Bridge.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Truly Wannabe Saint Nicks: Go to Kansas and See the Pro

Dick Conkling has been a Santa Claus so often he now gives lessons to other aspiring Saint Nicks. Mr. Conkling, 53, a printing broker in Roeland Park, Kansas, greets children at the Mission Center Mall in Mission, Kansas, and is the main attraction at dozens of private parties.

A big man with bright blue eyes and his own full white beard, Mr. Conkling conducted a Santa School at the Banister Mall in Kansas City.

"I told them to expect: You're gonna get your beard pulled, your

glasses ripped off, your hat taken off. You're gonna be poked, pinched, you'll be wet on, you'll be spit up on."

He also told the would-be Santas how to handle sensitive issues.

"You get kids that will say, 'I'd like my mom and dad to be back together again,' or 'My grandma died last year; could you bring her back?' I usually skirt those if I can, but if I can't, I tell them that Santa Claus just deals in toys."

One thing he has to work on, Mr. Conkling said, is his Santa laugh.

"My normal laugh is a ha-ha. It takes me a week or two every Christmas season to get back into ho-ho."

Santa also has to think fast. One day he had come back from a quick smoke.

"This kid sat on my lap and he said, 'You smell like smoke.' And I said, 'Yeah, that's because of all those chimneys I keep going up and down all the time. I can't get rid of that smell.'"

Short Takes

A three-story Tudor-style house and part of another dwelling collapsed into a huge sinkhole that opened up on a street in an exclusive San Francisco neighborhood. A 100-year-old sewer pipe filled by torrential rain ruptured, causing a sinkhole in Seal Cliff, a fashionable neighborhood near Golden Gate Bridge, that grew to a width of about 200 feet and a depth of 60 feet. The sinkhole also claimed a huge tree, a pickup truck, power lines and debris. Nobody was hurt.

The Executioner's Song: Esequiel Banda, 31, was executed by injection at Huntsville prison in Texas for murdering a 74-year-old woman. He was the 18th person executed by the state this year, a record. The previous high was 17 executions, in 1993. Texas has executed 103 people since the state restored the death penalty in 1982.

John Albert Taylor, convicted in Utah of the rape-murder of an 11-year-old girl, has requested that he be executed by firing squad next month. He would be the first capital prisoner to die by gunshot since Gary Gilmore in 1977. Utah is the only state that offers death by firing squad as an alternative form of execution.

About People

Betty Ford, 77, was not enthusiastic when the Betty Ford Center for treatment of addiction was named after her five years after her husband, Gerald, now 82, had left the presidency in 1977. "Of course, I didn't want my name on it," she told the Los Angeles Times. "Why would I? What if I couldn't stay sober? I could be a big embarrassment." But she did stay sober and has long served as the center's highly active chairwoman of the board. (International Herald Tribune)

Ottawa's New Volley at Tobacco Promotion

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

TORONTO — The Canadian government is moving to reimpose a ban on virtually all tobacco advertising and sharply curtail corporate promotion of tobacco brands, including sponsorship of sporting and cultural events.

"Tobacco products are like no other," said the federal health minister, Dianne Marleau, in announcing a new legislative package that the Canadian Parliament will consider next year. "They are addictive, hazardous and lethal. We must protect young Canadians from inducements to use them."

Canada has long imposed stiffer restrictions on tobacco advertising than those prevailing in other countries, including a ban on billboard and print advertisements as well as advertisements on radio and television.

Health warnings on cigarette packages are much more prominent here than in the United States, for example, and tobacco cannot be sold in vending machines in Canada.

But the Canadian Supreme Court threatened that aggressive stance when it ruled in September that the prevailing statute, the 1988 Tobacco Products Control Act, was an unconstitutional infringement on freedom of speech.

Abruptly free to advertise again, Canadian tobacco manufacturers have held back in anticipation of this week's legislative response, which goes well beyond the law the court overturned.

Carole Lacombe, director of the office of tobacco control in the federal Health Ministry, said:

"Canadian tobacco companies have exploited sponsorship and marketing in the context of a complete ban."

Lawmakers Endorse A Gesture to Quebec

Agence France-Press

OTTAWA — The House of Commons has recognized the people of Quebec as a "distinct society" in Canada, a gesture aimed at calming the tension coming from the province's Francophone separatist movement.

The proposal was approved by a vote of 148 to 91 and comes in recognition of Quebec's "French-speaking majority, unique culture and civil law tradition."

The separatist Bloc Québécois voted against the move, characterizing it as meaningless. The resolution, which must be approved by the Senate and signed by the governor-general to become law, confers no new powers on the province.

The proposed measures would have an immediate impact on tobacco companies' sponsorship of jazz festivals, tennis tournaments and other sporting and cultural events. They would prohibit cigarette brand names and logos on T-shirts, caps and other promotional items; would require prominent health warnings next to any such logos on promotional signs; would prohibit the use of cigarette brands to name sponsored events, like the Players Open tennis tournament, and would restrict the duration of public advertising for the events.

Asked to square the government's ambitious legislation with the Supreme Court decision, Ms. Marleau said that the court's language left room for such restrictions when the link between smoking and advertising was substantiated with research and the alternatives were proven inadequate.

The federal health minister said that she expected to provide that information and establish the link, which the tobacco industry continues to dispute.

"There is no evidence linking the smoking decision either to the presence or absence of advertising," said Robert Parker, president of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council.

"Advertising is a tool to defend your current market share and go after your competitors," he said.

Away From Politics

• The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is missing an additional \$20,000 in newly printed bills less than a month after \$40,000 in fresh cash apparently was stolen from a shipment to a federal reserve bank. (AP)

• Stephen V. Pyne of Annapolis, Maryland, has pleaded guilty to coming his way into the lives of World War II heroes and stealing their medals. He faces up to four and a half years in prison for theft. (AP)

• A man responding to a burglar alarm at his Missouri City, Texas, home shot and killed his 16-year-old daughter, who was hiding in a closet playing hooky. The police were leaving it up to a grand jury to decide whether Sherree's father, Samuel Walker, should be charged. (AP)

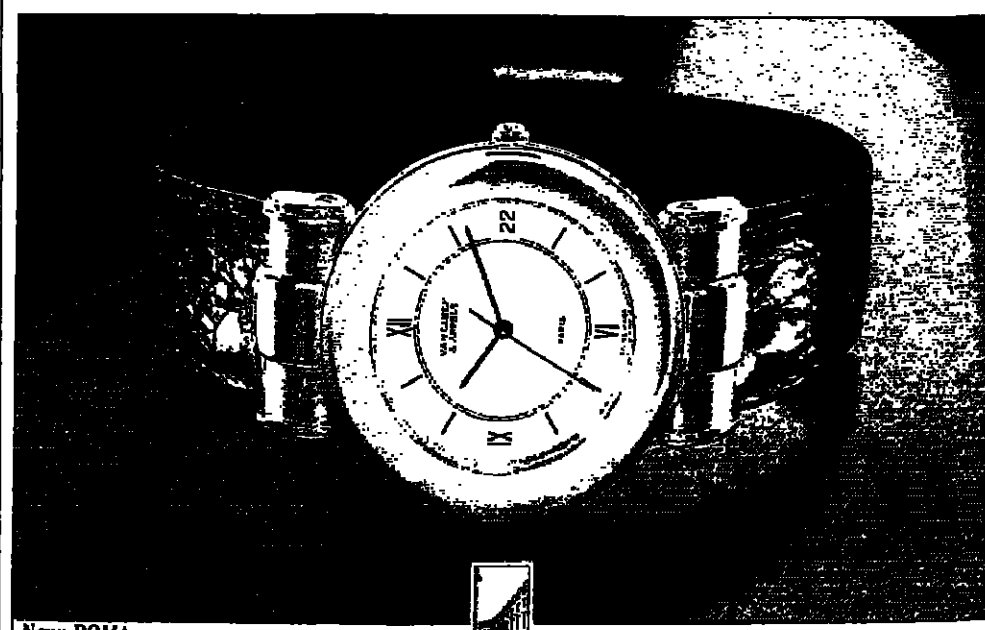
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ASIA

Scandals Shame Nation, Kim Says

Opposition Isn't Swayed by Vow to End Corruption

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — President Kim Young Sam of South Korea bitterly attacked his two detained predecessors Tuesday as "shameless" and vowed to root out the legacy of corruption left by military-backed governments.

But Mr. Kim's first public comments on the political scandals engulfing his country were branded as a whitewash by the main opposition party, which demanded that Mr. Kim apologize for his links to the former presidents, Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo.

Mr. Kim is to stand trial this month on charges of taking \$369 million in bribes from major businessmen to build a political slush fund.

Investors sold off stocks, indicating that they had expected greater clarity from President Kim on the crisis.

Mr. Kim has been accused by opposition parties of dipping into Mr. Roh's slush funds. But

the president has denied taking "a single cent."

Referring to Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, Mr. Kim said, "Instead of coming forward to repent and beg forgiveness for their past wrongdoings, they further infuriated the people with shameless behavior and remarks that are an affront to history."

He called for a "revolution of honor" to "recover the nation's self-esteem and open a bright future for our nation."

Later, two prosecutors vis-

ited an ailing former president, Choi Kyu Hah, at his home here and questioned him on whether he had been forced to step down in 1980 by Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh who, as army generals, headed the junta.

Mr. Choi, 76, led a transition government for eight months after President Park Chung Hee was assassinated by his intelligence chief in late 1979. The following year, Mr. Choi gave way to Mr. Chun, who was replaced by Mr. Roh in 1988.

Mr. Kim said the scandals had damaged South Korea's reputation and pledged to "crush any anti-historic and anti-democratic challenges" to his task of clearing up the past.

The president's statement came on the 16th anniversary of the 1979 coup that led to an army massacre of anti-government demonstrators in the city of Kwangju the following May. The official Kwangju death toll is about 200 people.

A spokesman for the opposition National Congress for New Politics attacked Mr. Kim



SLIDE — A China Airlines jet in Manila after landing gears failed Tuesday while taxiing with crew only. No one was hurt.

for failing to address his own links to Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh.

"This is only aimed at covering up his misdeeds," a spokesman said. He added that the president should "repent and apologize."

In 1990, Mr. Kim merged his opposition party with the governing camp led by Mr. Roh and

became its successful candidate in the 1992 presidential elections.

Securities brokers said investors were disappointed by Mr. Kim's statement, which they found vague. "The market was hoping something good would come from Kim's speech, but it was disappointing because there was no clear

statement of his relationship with the slush fund scandal," said Robert Song of Ssangyong Securities. (Reuters, AP)

Defector From North

South Korean intelligence officials said that a North Korean businessman defected to South Korea on Tuesday with three family members. The Associ-

ated Press reported from Seoul. Choe Se Ung, 34, his wife and two children arrived at Seoul's Gimpo Airport from an unspecified European country and were taken away for questioning, the officials said.

Twenty-five North Koreans have defected to the South this year. Most complained about economic hardship at home.

Cambodian Might Be Exiled to France

Agence France-Presse

PHNOM PENH — The second prime minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen, quickly accepted a request from King Norodom Sihanouk on Tuesday that the monarch's imprisoned half-brother be exiled instead of made to stand trial on charges of plotting Hun Sen's assassination.

"I wish to follow fully your majesty's humble idea, which has been raised in your majesty's message, with respect and fidelity," Hun Sen said in a letter to the king.

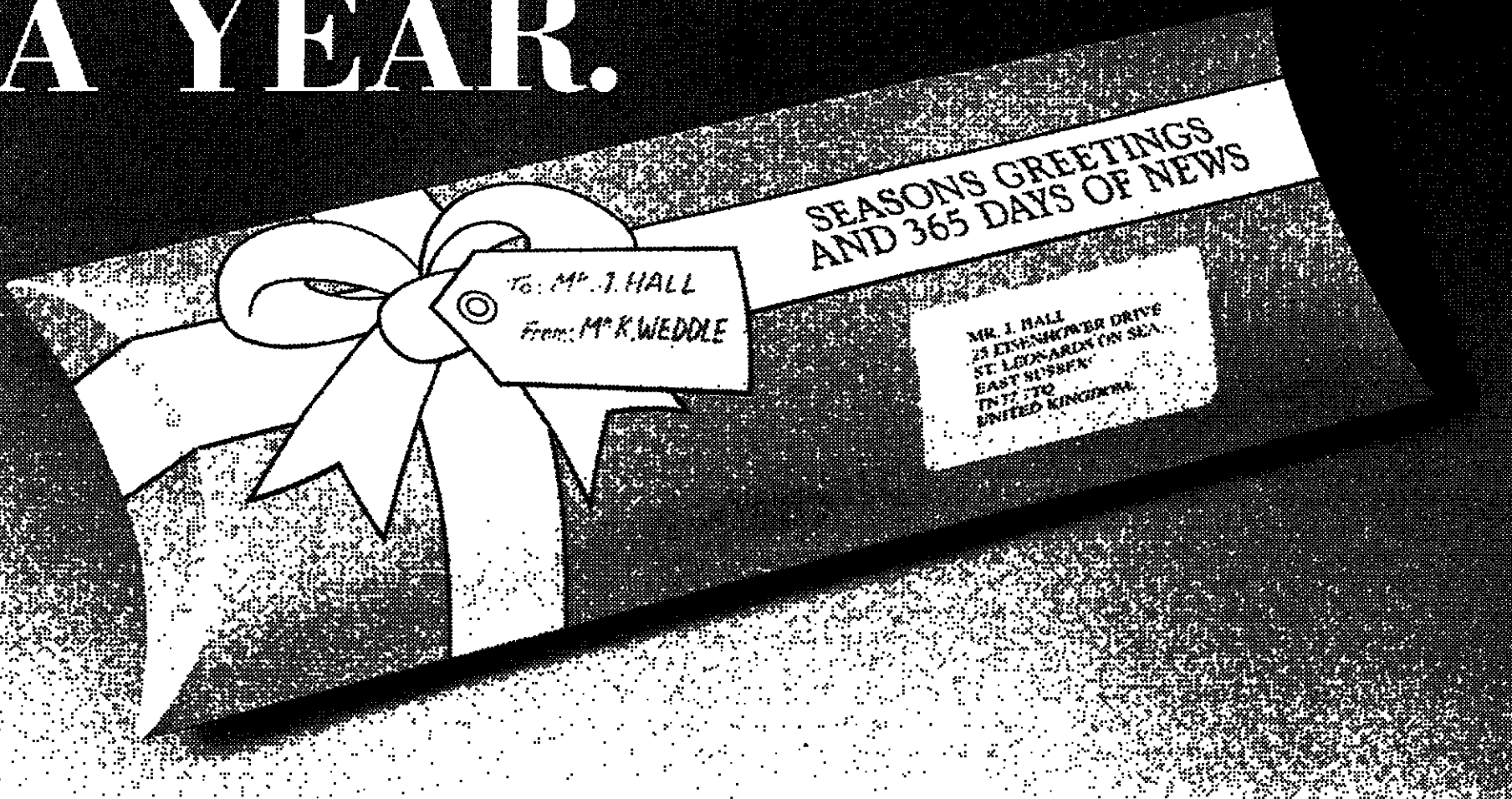
He said he understood the king's position and

called the situation "sorrowful." His reply was released just hours after King Sihanouk asked him to grant Prince Norodom Sirivudh a "semi-pardon" and allow him to live in exile in France.

Prince Sirivudh, secretary-general of the royalist party known as Funcinpec, has been jailed since Nov. 21, charged with attempting to overthrow the government and criminal conspiracy.

The case has drawn international attention, and several officials of foreign governments and human rights groups have condemned the arrest, calling the prince a "political prisoner."

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Spain	Phos. 48,000	41	26,500
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Manila on High Alert

As Death Squad Kills 4

Reuters

MANILA — The police were ordered onto a high state of alert Tuesday after the killings of a prominent industrialist and a 5-year-old boy in what President Fidel V. Ramos said was a declaration of war by a leftist death squad.

Leonardo Ty, 82, and 5-year-old Jeremy Tay Jin Han of Singapore were among four people killed in three attacks Monday.

The attacks, attributed to the leftist Alex Boncayao Brigade, all involved targets from the Philippines' Chinese business community, a group often victimized by kidnappers.

A statement to Manila radio stations reported to be from the brigade said Mr. Ty was killed because of "blood debts" to the people arising from fatal accidents at his Manila Paper Mills Inc. Mr. Ty's driver was also killed in the attack.

The brigade also claimed responsibility for an attack on another Philippine-Chinese industrialist, Benjamin Yu, who was shot in both legs.

No one took responsibility for the killing of the little boy, who was a passenger in a car owned by another Philippine-Chinese industrialist, Ramon Chua.

A bodyguard was also killed in that attack, while the boy's mother, Tan Lay Luan, her maid and the driver were wounded. Ramon Chua was not in the car.

"Apparently this signals a declaration of war by the terrorists and those that have been involved in protection and extortion," Mr. Ramos said at a news conference.

A police intelligence official said that witnesses' descriptions confirmed that at least three of the gunmen were known brigade members.

The group became notorious in the 1980s for a series of attacks. One of its most prominent victims was Colonel James Rowe, a U.S. Air Force officer advising the Philippines on counterinsurgency tactics. The group is named for a labor leader allegedly killed by the army.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Kuomintang Expels 2 Leaders

TAIPEI — Taiwan's Kuomintang expelled two deputy chairmen on Tuesday who campaigned for the opposition in recent parliamentary elections, raising the specter of a deeper rift in the ruling party.

A party disciplinary committee found that former Prime Minister Han Pei-tsun and a former president of the Judicial Yuan, Lin Yang-kang, had damaged the party's interests and viciously attacked a party member, as well as violated the party's charter.

But Mr. Lin and General Han, who are running together for president against President Lee Teng-hui, refused to accept the expulsion. "I do not accept," Mr. Lin said. "I still have qualifications to reform the Nationalist Party."

General Han, who still commands heavy support in the military, scoffed at the ruling. "Do they have that power? I don't think I can accept this," he said. (Reuters)

Strike Is Called in Bangladesh

DHAKA — Bangladesh's opposition groups called Tuesday for a 24-hour national strike on Sunday followed by a countrywide siege of election offices in an effort to block general elections planned for Jan. 18.

"The strike on Dec. 17 is intended to stop registration by nominees of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party to contest the election," said Mohammed Nasim, a leader of the main opposition Awami League.

"There will be a siege of election offices across the country on Dec. 18," he said. The allied opposition Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami also announced identical protest plans, vowing to frustrate any elections under Prime Minister Khalida Zia. (Reuters)

Shelling Kills 3 in Central Kabul

KABUL — A morning artillery barrage against central Kabul killed at least three pedestrians and wounded two on Tuesday, witnesses and hospital sources said.

Three shells, apparently fired by the Islamic Taleban militia, which has been besieging the Afghanistan capital since September, landed near the Kabul radio and television complex. Traders said a fourth shell crashed into one of the buildings in the complex. (Reuters)

Australia Departs 68 Refugees

CANBERRA — Australia sent 68 more Chinese-Vietnamese boat people back to China on Wednesday, bringing the total number deported since January to 533.

The latest group, the eighth to be repatriated, flew out of Port Hedland, Western Australia, early Wednesday, bound for Nanning in Guangxi Province. (AP)

VOICES From Asia

Lin Huaqin, deputy foreign minister of China, in an annual review of the world situation: "It is impossible that a new world war will break out, since peace, stability and development remain the mainstream of today's world." (Reuters)

Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, on the trial of one of China's leading dissidents: "Under any normal country, any normal system of justice, certainly under a number of treaties that guarantee individual civil liberties, including the UN Declaration of Human Rights, Mr. Wei Jingsheng ought to be released." (Reuters)

EUROPE

French Official Sees Far-Right Mayor's Election as Invalid

Agence France-Presse
NICE, France — A government official recommended Tuesday that the election of a far-right National Front member as mayor of the southern city of Toulon be annulled because of irregularities in campaign expenses.

The government commissioner, Alain Foucher, also called for the mayor, Jean-

Marie Le Chevallier, to be banned from public office for a year.

Mr. Chevallier was elected in June municipal elections in Nice, one of three French cities in which the National Front gained control of city halls.

The mayor, appointed as an administrative tribunal to hear the recommendations, said he would appeal if a ruling on the case that is due to be handed down on Dec. 19 went against him.

The government commissioner was called in after the CCFP election-monitoring body rejected Mr. Chevallier's campaign accounts last month because his financial agent was also running for election, to a seat on the city council.

The mayor asserted Tuesday the law was "badly written."

The National Front also won city hall elections in the southern towns of Mantes-la-Jolie and Orange in June.

The National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, won more than 15 percent of the votes in the first round of presidential balloting last spring.

Death of a Legislator Cuts Major's Majority

Reuters
LONDON — The death of a Conservative legislator Tuesday cut Prime Minister John Major's majority in Parliament to five, making it harder for him to avoid an early general election.

Sir David Lightbown, 63, won by 7,192 votes in the 1992 election for the English seat of Staffordshire South-East.

But, based on current trends in opinion polls, his seat would almost certainly be captured by the opposition Labor Party in a by-election now expected a few months into 1996.



AUTHOR, AUTHOR — The nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy signing copies Tuesday of 'The Last Blow on Russia,' which tells of a Western conspiracy to destroy Russia. His party is expected to falter in Sunday's elections.

For Turks, Life (or Death) in Germany Still Offers No Respite

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

WESSELING, Germany — When her father died 15 years ago, Nilgul Imrencler buried him in the Muslim section of the Cologne West cemetery, believing his grave would enjoy eternal serenity.

In a land where there are rules for everything, though, she was unaware of the bylaws for the dead.

Visiting the cemetery earlier this year, Mrs. Imrencler found a large white sign in front of 270 Muslim headstones, including her father's. "This burial ground is to be leveled," it said.

City officials told her that the kind of grave she had chosen for her father — the kind chosen by some 40 percent of families of all faiths — qualified

only for 15 years' peace. Then it had to be flattened to make way for others.

Mrs. Imrencler said she discovered that Christian graves were also set for leveling. But Mrs. Imrencler, a Turkish citizen whose family moved here 35 years ago, has fought the order, arguing that Islam forbids the disruption of the remains of the dead. Her lawyers have secured a court order to prevent the leveling of the graves.

The case is part of a broader debate over the extent to which Muslims, particularly the 2 million Turks living among 80 million Germans, may demand a particular status on grounds of faith. It also points up the clash of cultures that is spreading across Europe as Islam imported by immigrants takes root.

In recent months, said Cem Ozdemir, the only Turkish-descended

member of the German Parliament, arguments have erupted over Muslim claims to slaughter animals according to traditions that resemble those of Jewish kosher practices but that conflict with German butchery laws. Turkish parents in Bremen and Freiburg have gone to court, Mr. Ozdemir said, to ensure that their daughters are not forced to play sports or swim alongside boys in the usual German way.

For Turks in Germany, the conflict has a particular twist. They come from a land that, since 1923, has been officially secular. But it is also a land where confrontation between secular Turks and fundamentalist Muslims is sharpening.

"All the big debates in Turkey are echoed in Germany," said Stefan Wild, a professor of Islamic studies at

Bonn University. "They are even sharper because people can say things in Germany that they are not allowed to say in Turkey." Moreover, Mr. Wild said, the collision with the West is magnified because many Turks, confronted with alien ways in Germany, seek a return to Islam.

Mrs. Imrencler, whose family has bought a four-bedroom house in this refinery town midway between Bonn and Cologne, does not count herself among the Islamic fundamentalists, however. Indeed, she regards herself as an advocate among Turks for German benevolence toward them. But the business with her father's grave, she said, has strained her ability to persuade Turks to see their German hosts as the good guys.

The bitterness is amplified by the contrast between memories of Ger-

many's reception of Turkish "guest workers" in the 1960s and the hostility toward them now, particularly since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Mrs. Imrencler said: "We were the builders of Germany's economic miracle. So we have a right to live here and be buried here."

For the city authorities of Cologne, however, the issue has nothing to do with religious faith or immigrants' rights. It is a matter of space and money.

According to Reinhard Muck, the city official overseeing Cologne's graveyards, Mrs. Imrencler chose a "row grave" 15 years ago, rather than a "grave of choice." Row graves cost \$600 for a 15-year, nonrenewable lease. Graves of choice cost \$1,600 for a 25-year, renewable lease.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Single Currency Storm Warning

BONN — Oskar Lafontaine, the new leader of the German opposition, suggested Tuesday that the European Union's plans for a single currency could lead to widespread joblessness and even social instability.

Mr. Lafontaine, who toppled Rudolf Scharping as chief of the Social Democratic Party three weeks ago, said the party favored merging the currencies of the European Union nations — "for economic and political reasons."

But he suggested that high joblessness and instability could result from EU members' push to meet the budgetary conditions for joining the proposed monetary union.

"If European economies weaken further," he said, "it will become increasingly difficult for all member states to meet the conditions for monetary union. But the European Monetary Union must not be allowed to become a pan-European program for recession." (AP)

Spain Cheers Its EU Leadership

MADRID — Spain congratulated itself on Tuesday for what it described as a "magnificent" performance in its six-month turn as president of the European Union, which culminates in a summit meeting in Madrid this weekend.

"The Spanish presidency of the EU, I believe, has been a great success," Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga said in a radio interview. "Everybody admits that it has been a magnificent presidency."

The summit meeting on Friday and Saturday that will cap Spain's turn at the EU helm is likely to settle on "Euro" as the name for the planned single currency and to define crucial details of the transfer scheduled for 1999, said Mr. Solana, the next secretary-general of NATO. (Reuters)

EU-Ankara Pact Looks Set

BRUSSELS — The plan to break down trade barriers between the European Union and Turkey is headed for almost certain approval Wednesday despite lingering concerns in Western Europe about Ankara's human rights record.

The European Parliament, whose vote is the only remaining obstacle to the customs union, has gradually and grudgingly embraced the deal as the best way to push democratic reform in Turkey.

"It will be a great majority," said Jannis Sakellariou, a German member of the Parliament's dominant Socialist faction. The free-trade union, to take effect Jan. 1, will apply to all goods except agricultural items and steel. (AP)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Wednesday:

PARIS: The commissioner for foreign relations with Eastern Europe, Hans van den Broek, participates in the conference on the former Yugoslavia and the signing of the Dayton Accord.

MEXICO: The commissioner for industrial affairs, Martin Bangemann, begins an official visit to Mexico, with which the commission is preparing a new commercial agreement.

STRASBOURG: Commission President Jacques Santer addresses Parliament on the Madrid summit meeting.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP


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INTERNATIONAL

Thai Demand for a Potent Missile Puts U.S. in a Bind

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — As a battle between the United States, Europe and Russia for shares of the Asian arms market heats up, Thailand has found that the rivalry offers leverage for gaining access to advanced military technology.

Thailand's planned purchase of 16 American-made F-18 fighters at a cost of about \$1 billion has been held up by its insistence that they be armed with the Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air missile, or Amraam, that U.S. pil-

lots used with great success against the Iraqis in the Gulf War.

The problem for Washington is that the highly accurate, radar-homing missile, with a range of about 50 kilometers (30 miles), has not been released for export to Southeast Asian countries.

To do so now, when Thailand — a U.S. ally — faces no obvious external threat, could invite criticism in Congress and elsewhere that the Clinton administration is violating its policy to control military exports and encouraging an arms race in the region.

But the Thai Air Force commander,

Siripong Thongyai, has threatened to pull out of the deal if the missiles are not included. He said Thailand would turn instead to France or Russia for a supply of similar fighters and missiles.

France has offered to sell the Mirage 2000-5 with Mica air-to-air missiles, while Russia has offered the MiG-29 or the Su-27 with R-77 missiles.

In a buyer's market — where all arms manufacturers have been hit by falling orders and are desperately trying to stave off further job losses by winning foreign sales — Thailand's tactic appears to have succeeded.

Rapid economic growth in East Asia is enabling countries to modernize their armed forces, and the region is the fastest growing market in the world for weapons, especially jet fighters.

"For arms-control reasons, we have concerns about being the first to release Amraam technology" to Southeast Asia, a U.S. official said Tuesday. "But we are not going to lose this sale to Thailand. I'm quite confident on this and so are the relevant Thai authorities. It's just a matter of trying to find a mutually acceptable formula."

So far, Malaysia is the only country in Southeast Asia to have formally placed an order for the F-18. It will get eight of the twin-engine fighters in late 1996 and 1997, without the Amraams. The American official said that any F-18's ordered by Thailand would not be delivered until 1998 or 1999.

He said it was "a safe assumption" that Amraam-type technology would be available in the region before then. "We would not want to unilaterally deny the Amraam to Thailand if similar technology was available from other sources," the official added.

Nairobi Lament

Mayor Faces Corruption, Low Funds and Outages

By Donatella Lorch
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — Mayor John Kingori says he has a call from God to salvage this city. Yet attempts by Mr. Kingori so far suggest that he may also need some help from God to provide the 3 million or so residents here with such basic services as water, electricity, garbage pickup, adequate roads and reliable telephone service.

The number of people in Kenya's capital has tripled in the last decade and is expected to grow to 4.5 million by the turn of the century. But the city's finances are so low, the mayor said, that there is no money to repair roads, expand water supplies or deploy enough trucks to collect garbage for the current population.

What's more, for trying to fight corruption in the city council, he has received anonymous death threats and was recently wounded by a young gunman.

"Nairobi has been dismantled," Mr. Kingori said in a recent interview in his office. "Water and sewage are a great problem. Roads are a huge problem. We lack the funds. We are paying a lot of money for telephones and electricity, but why do we not have enough? I complain like other citizens. The charges are there but the services are not there."

Although to some extent Nairobi's problems are shared by most other Third World capitals, Kenya, surrounded by countries afflicted by civil war or ruled by dictators, established itself as eastern Africa's most industrialized and most stable nation and attracted much foreign investment and tourism.

But increasingly in the last 10 years, corruption and mismanagement have undermined the foundations for energy, telecommunications and transportation, all sectors of patronage and power.

Recently, after a daylong blackout in Nairobi's business area, the telephone system there collapsed. Even when the system is working, a phone call across town often requires more than five attempts because the technology dates from the 1930s, and connections are uncertain once they are made.

A sporadic supply of electricity forces schoolchildren to study by candlelight, spoils food in refrigerators, delays meals when stoves do not work and stalls the work of businesses that depend on fax machines, photo-copiers, printers, computers and elevators.

For residents like George Mwangi Juguna, 50, a guard who lives in one of Nairobi's slums, the economic decay means that he wakes his five children an hour before dawn so they can buy water while supplies are available, a task that requires them to walk two miles (3.2 kilometers) before heading off to school.

"Getting water is a nightmare," Mr. Juguna said. "Most of the people here just go without water for up to five days at a time. The problems can only get worse because people keep on moving into Nairobi."

Seeking to rebuild the country's crumbling system of basic services, the World Bank and Western donors plan to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to privatize energy and telecommunications as well as to rebuild roads, but progress is painstakingly slow and several of the projects have not yet been approved by the donors.

Whites Flee Crime in South Africa

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — At the end of this month, Heidi Moller will move from South Africa to Germany, leaving the country she was born in without a hint of regret. Her husband's business is not doing well. The school system, she believes, is disintegrating. But most of all, she says, she is leaving because fear has come to overwhelm her family.

Last year, her husband, Hans, a surveyor, was shot at from a passing vehicle as he worked in a northern Johannesburg suburb. A few months later, he was forced off the road by hijackers and, as he struggled with one of them, was shot in the leg.

One of Mrs. Moller's best friends was shot in the hip, and her husband was killed in front of their children. Her brother-in-law was shot at in his driveway as four armed men tried to steal his car.

If she and her husband had tried to leave two years ago as South Africa was preparing for its first free elections, Mrs. Moller says, her friends would have called them cowards and accused them of running away. But these days, she says, "All we find is that people are envious."

Experts say the white, wealthy and the educated are leaving South Africa in growing numbers, draining the country of expertise when it is desperately needed. Most of those departing have several reasons for going and a bleak view of the role that white people can have in this country's future.

But most often, the move is a response to the violent crime that is on the increase, and seems to have touched almost everyone.

Much of the new terror is confined to the white suburbs of Johannesburg. These areas were well protected under the old government and the residents worried about crime little more than suburban residents do in America. But these days, every house is a fortress, with burglar bars on the win-

dows and a steel "rape gate" separating the bedrooms from the rest of the house for extra protection at night.

Garden walls are topped by ever-evolving forms of razor wire, unclimbable "cactus" spikes, or electric wires that deliver a jolt as they set off an alarm. And, carrying a gun is ever more commonplace.

"Someone close to you gets hurt and you think, 'It could happen to me,'" said Ron Stern, who has a business selling windows and doors and says he is considering leaving. "Should I stick around and risk my children's lives? You are in a constant state of limbo trying to figure this out. That's our daily existence. That's what we do."

The exodus has hit particularly hard at some professions, perhaps none more than medicine. One doctor recently sent the photograph of his graduating class to a local paper, showing that at least 76 of the 186 graduates in 1984 had emigrated. But moving-company executives say that whites from all backgrounds, including Afrikaners, are leaving.

Government statistics, collected from departure forms filled out at the airport, show that peak emigration was in the first half of 1994, just before the elections, when the fear was of rioting or civil war. But recent statistics show that the exodus is hardly fading. During the first half of 1995, 6,030 people said they were emigrating, about twice the number of five years before.

Experts say those statistics greatly underestimate the problem because people lie on their departure forms. Moving companies and relocation specialists say they have not been this busy since the late 1970s, when a wave of brutal riots started what is known in the business as the first "chicken run."

"When they give the stats in the paper, I always laugh," said Estelle Sachavitz of Sunatofors Removals, a big moving company. "Most people don't say they are leaving for good. As soon as they say that,

their funds are blocked and things get very complicated. So people just go."

The long-term consequences for South Africa are unclear. Some emigrants will return, unable to make a go of it elsewhere. But for a country finally trying to improve the lives of a population and in need of jobs, health care and good schools, the loss of the educated elite is a blow.

All over Africa, post-colonial economies fell apart when the English, Portuguese or French colonizers were scared out — a lesson that was not lost on the African National Congress. At a meeting with black executives, President Nelson Mandela said that accommodating whites was in the country's best interest. "In putting aside the quarrels of the past," he said, "we have a country which has the opportunity to acquire education, skills and expertise in many fields. We want this."

To be sure, crime is not the only reason whites leave. Mrs. Moller said her husband was having a harder and harder time getting people to pay their bills and felt the whole country was becoming lawless. Changes to government bureaucracies have made filing paperwork a nightmare. And there is talk of revamping property laws, in ways that will diminish the need for land surveyors.

Most go to Australia, England, the United States, Canada or New Zealand. Many have quietly kept up dual citizenship to make the departure easy. But others face the complex hurdles that popular countries put in the way of applicants. When Frasers, a major moving company, sponsored a free seminar on immigration laws, open to 300 people, the response was so big they repeated it three times.

Many of those who want to leave believe their wealth will shrink overseas.

"We'll never be able to match this," said an accountant, sweeping his hand across his property — a five-bedroom house with a pool. "We will have a basic house and a basic motor vehicle."

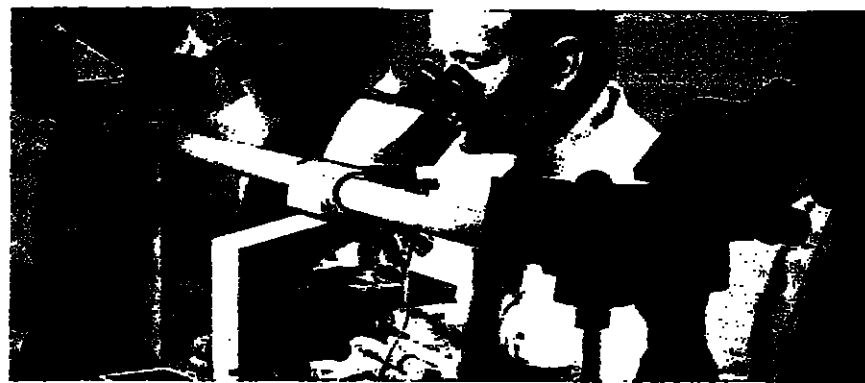


THESE BOOTS WERE MADE FOR FIGHTING — President Nelson Mandela of South Africa holding boots, returned to him Tuesday, that he last wore in 1962 in Tanzania as he planned his campaign to fight apartheid.

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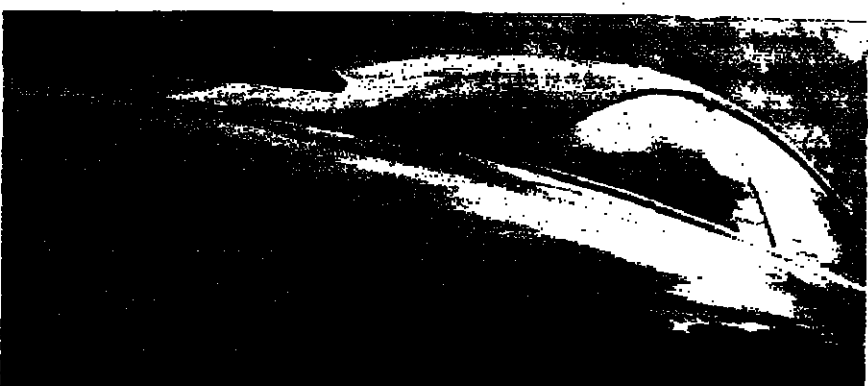
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INTERNATIONAL

Senate Rejects Flag-Desecration Ban

WASHINGTON — In a close vote Tuesday, the Senate rejected a Constitutional amendment that would have given Congress the power to prohibit physical desecration of the American flag.

The Senate voted, 63 to 36, for the measure, three votes shy of the two-thirds majority needed for an amendment.

The amendment was supported by 49 Republicans and 14 Democrats and opposed by 32 Democrats and four Republicans.

The Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, Orrin G. Hatch, a Utah Republican, said President Bill Clinton's opposition to what proponents hoped would be the 28th Amendment to the Constitution was the decisive factor in its defeat.

The White House said that Mr. Clinton would be open to a federal law banning desecration of the flag, but that he opposes a constitutional amendment.

"The guys in the powdered wigs had it about right in 1792," said Michael McCurry, White House press secretary.

The House approved, 312 to 120, a broader amendment in June that gives both Congress and the states the power to determine what is unlawful desecration of the

national symbol. If the Senate had adopted the bill, the House and Senate would have had to work out a final version in a conference committee.

Mr. Clinton would not have been able to veto it if it had passed both chambers by a two-thirds majority.

Before the final vote, the Senate rejected, 71 to 28, a substitute version proposed by Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the leading Republican critic of an amendment. The substitute would have barred desecration by legislative means rather than changing the Constitution.

The Senate also defeated, 93 to 5, language proposed by Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, that would remove the word "desecration." He said the word was too subjective and would empower Congress to bar the burning, mutilation or trampling of the flag, regardless of intent.

The Senate version, which was sponsored by Mr. Hatch, deleted the reference to the states in the House bill in a bid to overcome objections that states might enact conflicting laws. His version read: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Congress has proposed more than

10,000 amendments since the Constitution went into effect in 1789, but only 27 have been ratified. The Bill of Rights comprises the first 10.

The 26th Amendment, passed in 1971, lowered the voting age to 18. The 27th, stating that at least one election must take place before congressional pay raises go into effect, was ratified in 1992, more than 200 years after Congress proposed it as part of the original Bill of Rights.

The last time Congress sent an amendment to the states was in 1978, a measure to give the District of Columbia statehood. It died after seven years because the required three-fourths of state legislatures failed to ratify it.

Mr. Hatch argued that the amendment is needed to overturn two Supreme Court rulings, in 1989 and 1990, that flag-burning was a protected First Amendment right. "Isn't it ridiculous that the American people are denied the right to protect their unique national symbol in the law?" he asked.

But opponents said flag-burning was rare — they cited figures showing only three incidents in 1994 and none in 1993 — and that the proposed amendment was a direct affront to First Amendment rights to free speech. (AP, Reuters)

Las Vegas Must Shut Lasers for Air Safety

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Federal regulators, worried that pilots flying over Las Vegas might be temporarily blinded by the bright laser light shows that flash nightly over this glittering resort city.

The lights were ordered shut off immediately within a 20-mile (32-kilometer) radius of McCarran International Airport until the casinos can show that they can keep the beams out of the eyes of pilots.

The ban by the Food and Drug Administration was imposed in response to increased complaints from pilots who say they have been momentarily unable to see after the light beams flashed in their cockpits. The agency usually regulates lasers as medical devices.

"We must all do our parts to prevent the occurrence of a tragedy that could cost hundreds of lives," an agency compliance official, Lillian J. Gill, told a half-dozen casinos in a letter sent Monday ordering the shutoff.

Ms. Gill said the ban affected only Las Vegas, but said her agency would not hesitate to extend the ban to other areas where outdoor laser light shows might pose a problem to airplane pilots.

McCarran Airport has received 51 reports of pilots temporarily blinded by the lights, including an Oct. 30 incident in which a co-pilot was forced to grab the controls after a Southwest Airlines pilot, Shelby LaCroix, was temporarily blinded only 3 miles into a takeoff.

"Had it hit me and the other pilot simultaneously, I shudder to think what would have happened," Mr. LaCroix said.

Hurricane Winds Cut Power To Thousands on West Coast

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Hurricane-force wind and heavy rain blasted the West Coast on Tuesday, overturning trucks exposed on bridges and knocking out power for tens of thousands of people.

Many Oregon and Washington state schools canceled classes or closed early as the storm rolled in from the Pacific, and wind gusted to more than 100 miles an hour (160 kilometers an hour) along the Oregon coast.

The high tide in Seattle on Tuesday morning was two feet (60 centimeters) above normal.

In the San Francisco Bay area, the Richmond-San Rafael bridge was closed to trucks after one big rig was overturned by the wind, and two of three ferry systems canceled service.

Also in California, downtown skyscrapers creaked and

moaned, and two women were killed by falling trees in Redding and Redway.

Power outages affected about 235,000 customers in northern California, said David Bich, a spokesman for Pacific Gas & Electric.

In the Midwest and East, meanwhile, International Falls, Minnesota, set a record-low temperature for the date of minus 39 Fahrenheit (minus 39.5 centigrade) on Tuesday morning, and Buffalo, New York was digging out from snow measured in feet.

Nearly three dozen deaths from hypothermia and weather-related accidents were reported from Wisconsin to Georgia, including 15 in Iowa. Baton Rouge, Louisiana had a record low Monday of 23 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 5 centigrade).

Along the West Coast, wind gusts to 95 miles an hour were

reported near Eureka, California, the utility said.

In Oregon, gusts included 102 miles an hour at Sixes River and 86 miles an hour at Gold Beach. Some places in Oregon got more than three inches (seven centimeters) of rain in six hours.

The heavy rains in the state of Oregon caused mud slides that blocked at least one highway, and trees and power lines were down in some areas.

In Buffalo, road crews were clearing the streets of a record 37.9 inches of snow that fell in 24 hours.

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, had received more than 61 inches of snow since Friday night, and an additional 8 inches was possible.

On Lake Huron, two ships were stranded in the ice — up to a foot thick near one ship, the Coast Guard said.

U.S. Army to Undertake Probe Of Troops' Role in Hate Groups

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army, responding to the killing of a black couple by white soldiers in North Carolina, said Tuesday that it would investigate troop involvement with hate groups across the United States and abroad.

An internal task force headed by Lieutenant General Larry Jordan, the army's deputy inspector-general, is to report its findings and recommendations by March 1.

In announcing the investigation, the army secretary, Togo D. West Jr., said: "We will look to see whether, in fact, this incident suggests membership in extremist organizations that is active participation in ways that undermine our basic values of fair play, of dignity, of treating all with respect."

As the army secretary made the announcement at a Pentagon news conference, Defense Secretary William J. Perry issued a statement saying that "there is no place for racial hatred or extremism in the U.S. military."

Army regulations explicitly prohibit soldiers from being actively involved in extremist groups, including those espousing white supremacist views or advocating violence. But there is no prohibition on mere membership in such groups, so long as the soldier is not involved in public rallies, distribution of literature, raising funds, recruiting members or attending meetings.

Mr. West expressed sympathy for the families of the couple killed last week in Fayetteville, North Carolina, outside Fort Bragg, which is home to several elite units, including the

82d Airborne Division and the 18th Airborne Corps.

The police say James Norman Burmeister 2d, 20, and Malcolm Wright, 21, both privates based at Fort Bragg, confronted a black couple, Michael James, 36, and Jackie Burden, 27, as they walked on a downtown street on Dec. 7 and shot both of them in the head. The two privates are charged with murder.

All soldiers know from their army training that there is "no room for racial intolerance of any kind," Mr. West said.

Less than 24 hours before his announcement, the army chief of staff, General Dennis Reimer, said that while Fort Bragg needed to be investigated, he saw no reason for an army-wide probe of links to white supremacist or other hate groups. (AP, Reuters)



Shimon Peres during his address to Congress on Tuesday, as Vice President Gore and Speaker Gingrich applauded.

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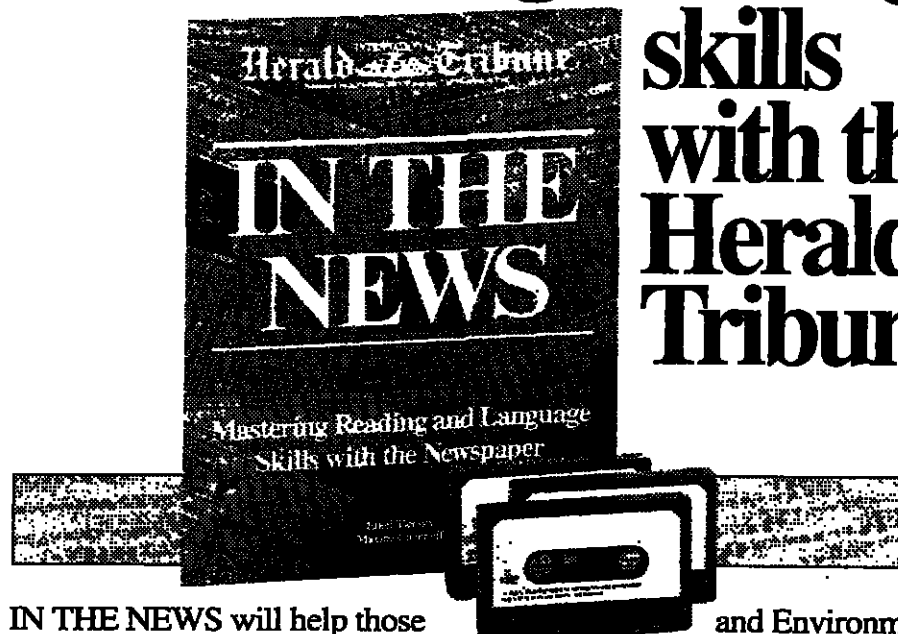
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Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

For China's Democrats

Wei Jingsheng, China's leading campaigner for democracy, goes on trial for his life this Wednesday in a proceeding that exposes the emptiness of Beijing's claim to be a society ruled by law. If the Clinton administration means to maintain any credibility as a defender of human rights in China, it must make a maximum effort to win Mr. Wei's freedom.

After 20 months of secretive administrative detention, Mr. Wei was formally arrested last month on the baseless charge of trying to overthrow China's Communist government. Then his trial was scheduled with less than a week's notice. As of 48 hours before the opening of courtroom proceedings, the attorney hired by Mr. Wei's family had not received written notice of the charges and had not been given an opportunity to meet with his client.

China's leaders want to make an example of Mr. Wei, who has already suffered more than 14 years' imprisonment for advocating political freedom. Their goal is to intimidate the intellectuals who began speaking out again on human rights issues earlier this year. If Beijing succeeds without paying a stiff international price, freedom in China will experience a heavy and lasting defeat.

The renewed persecution of Mr. Wei

should stiffen the spine of the Clinton administration, which has been ceding ground on human rights in China ever since it unwisely severed the link between rights and Beijing's trade privileges in 1993. The administration has a special responsibility in Mr. Wei's case, since his latest detention began just after he met with Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck in March 1994. If China considers a meeting between one of its citizens and an American diplomat an attempt to overthrow the government, nothing that could fairly be called "normal" relations between Beijing and Washington is possible.

Should this show trial proceed to its scripted conclusion, the appropriate response would be to renew Washington's drive for censure of China by the UN Human Rights Commission next March. The last such effort fell one vote short. Beijing has suggested that it might release prisoners and take other steps to avoid UN censure.

By raising its voice on the Wei Jingsheng case, Washington can ease the plight of China's most prominent democrat and help forestall new pressures against others less well known but equally courageous.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Whitewater Secrets

Just when it seemed possible that the White House could not handle Whitewater any more clumsily, here come two new moves to undermine public confidence.

The disclosure that Vincent Foster removed three files from Hillary Clinton's law firm during the 1992 election campaign and turned them over to the Clintons' political fixer, Webster Hubbell, is truly a blow to those who want to believe that the Clintons have nothing to hide. The files related to Mrs. Clinton's work for Madison Guaranty, the savings and loan owned by the Clintons' Whitewater investment partner, James McDougal. The White House will no doubt argue that the files are innocuous. But that claim seems lighter than air compared with the fact that they were stored in the basement of a lawyer later convicted of a felony and that they disappeared from the Rose law firm in a year when the Clinton campaign team was perfecting its stonewall defense on Whitewater.

The other matter has to do with the dubious claim of lawyer-client privilege being advanced by President Bill Clinton about a 1993 meeting at which his senior lawyers and aides discussed Whitewater. Mr. Clinton seems headed for a messy legal showdown with the Senate White-

water committee, but he is stretching attorney-client privilege beyond any reasonable limit and also revoking his promise of openness about this matter.

Surely no one wants to intrude on exchanges between the president and his personal lawyer. But this meeting included a top political aide, Bruce Lindsey, and a battery of attorneys on the public payroll, including White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum and two of his assistants. The committee reasonably wants to know about government matters that may have been discussed, such as the handling of the investigation by the Treasury Department and the Resolution Trust Corporation into Madison Guaranty. A court will decide whether notes taken at the meeting and a White House memo about the session can be deemed personal legal papers. That will take an expansive interpretation in Mr. Clinton's behalf.

To be sure, Citizen Clinton is entitled to litigate all he wants and to claim whatever privacy the courts will give him. But President Clinton, the politician and national leader, cannot expect the public to be reassured by mysteriously mobile files and promises of openness that disappear behind the lawyer-client veil.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

What About the Poor?

If the current budget talks break down, the hang-up likely won't be money. The parties will split instead on the ancient question: To what extent should the federal government guarantee a minimum standard of living, or minimum level of benefits, to the poor? The crucial battleground in this will be Medicaid, by far the largest federal "welfare" program through which the federal and state governments together help pay the health care bills of lower-income children and the needy elderly and disabled—all told, about a seventh of the population.

The money issues won't be easy. But Congress deals with money issues all the time, and the differences between the parties are already starting to melt. The Congressional Budget Office has freshened the economic and programmatic assumptions on which its estimates of future deficits are based, and more than \$100 billion of the problem has disappeared. An agreement to adjust Social Security benefits and such features of the tax code as the personal exemption and standard deduction by less than the full inflation rate for a number of years could raise many billions more.

If the Republicans will then back off from their tax cuts a little while the Democrats ease their opposition to Medicare cuts, you are close to home. Except for the basic question: What should be the future federal role, particularly with regard to assisting the poor?

The Republicans basically think that the federal government should do less, and the president has already done a fair amount of retreating on the issue. The current welfare program embodies a federal guarantee of aid to needy single parents and their children; he has indicated that he would sign a welfare bill dropping that. He has indicated a willingness to limit future housing aid by capping the appropriations on which it depends as well.

That leaves three other major federal programs for the poor—Medicaid, food stamps and the earned-income tax credit, which stretches the wages of lower-income workers with children. On these the president has said to Democrats and advocacy groups unhappy with his welfare and housing concessions that he will not give major ground but will hold the line. The Republicans, although they have proposed deep cuts and assorted structural changes in all three of these programs, have indicated that on food stamps and the tax credit they don't care that much; they themselves are divided.

On the structure of Medicaid, though, they have said there will be no give, and there you are. They want to go to a system of block grants, cut projected federal spending sharply, cut what the states must put up to get their federal funds, and largely let the states decide how and on whom the money will be spent. This would pretty well eliminate the federal guarantee that the needy young and elderly could count on a certain level of care. The president rightly wants to preserve the guarantee. He would meanwhile cut projected costs by capping the annual increase per beneficiary—the right way to do it.

Much more is at stake in this than just a balanced federal budget and the balance of power between the federal government and the states. Medicaid is not just a major federal cost and major source of aid to state and local governments; it is the insurer of last resort in the health care system. Especially if even costlier Medicare is to be shaken up and cut, Medicaid needs to be preserved to protect the vulnerable. The alternative is even more people uninsured; the poor, the states and the hospitals and other institutions that serve the poor would all be stranded. This fight is not just about the federal budget and the federal role. It's about that.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

The Call for a Reckoning Echoes Again in Russia

By Stephen F. Cohen

NEW YORK—An explosive Russian issue that is central to the parliamentary elections next Sunday is the dramatic question that has arisen since the 19th century whenever Russia has plunged into epic misfortune: "Kto vinovat?"—who is guilty?

The passions it has generated have repeatedly polarized political life, engulfed the country in frenzied searches for "enemies of the people" and helped perpetuate dictatorships. It may be arising again.

Many members of the political class and a growing number of voters now view what Boris Yeltsin and his Western supporters have called radical reform as a criminal revolution whose perpetrators must be removed from power and punished.

This call for a reckoning is a widespread response to President Yeltsin's abolition of the Soviet Union in 1991; his 1992 economic measures that have impoverished nearly half the nation while unleashing a bacchanalia of official corruption and enriching 5 to 8 percent of the population; his tank-backed dissolution

of an elected Parliament in 1993, and his war against Chechnya.

Influential pro-democracy newspapers, once supporters, have called Yeltsin economic policies a crime against national security, charged that his executive branch is corrupt, and condemned the Chechen campaign as criminal.

Earlier this year, Obshchaya Gazeta, whose editor was once a Yeltsin ally, carried a two-page headline: "Boris Yeltsin Is Guilty—Before the Law, Before the People, Before History."

Not surprisingly, Mr. Yeltsin's government fears losing power. Having ruled primarily by decree rather than parliamentary legislation, it is nakedly vulnerable to reprisals. For more than a year, Yeltsin representatives have tried to cancel scheduled elections, particularly next year's presidential contest.

With Mr. Yeltsin in poor health and his approval ratings low, much depends on

the leaders of the increasingly strong opposition parties, ranging from nationalist to liberal democratic to Communist, who are using the Dec. 17 elections as part of their struggle for the presidency.

All warn against repeating Russia's history of savage retribution, but none rule out a legal accounting for what has happened since 1991. And none believe that if the Kremlin's dwindling supporters do poorly on Dec. 17 it will let a presidential election take place, certainly not a fair one.

The decisive factor may be the billions of dollars of nationalized property that the government has handed over to a small segment of the former Soviet ruling class under the banner of privatization. Elites excluded from that largesse may settle for a second distribution benefiting them, although such an intramural deal is unlikely to satisfy public opinion.

How "Who is guilty?" is answered will be fateful for Russia and the world. The Clinton administration may be tempted to do all it can to help Mr. Yeltsin or his associates remain in power. Many Rus-

sian politicians and commentators are convinced that the United States will close its eyes to any pro-Yeltsin irregularities on Dec. 17 and even to a cancellation of the presidential election in June.

To do so would be a great mistake. With virtually the entire Russian political spectrum offended by the plan to expand NATO eastward, even tacit American support for any attempt by the Yeltsin regime to evade democratic judgment could only further poison relations.

The Clinton administration has endorsed almost everything Mr. Yeltsin has done, arguing that he represents stability. But what kind of stability exists if the changes have awakened the old demon and caused so many citizens to see them as criminal? The only hope is that this time Russia will decide who is guilty in a democratic way.

The writer is professor of politics and Russian studies at Princeton University. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Europeans and Americans Plan to Be Doing a Lot More Together

By Peter Tarnoff and Joan E. Spero

The writers are, respectively, U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs and undersecretary for economic affairs.

WASHINGTON—The trans-Atlantic partnership has passed its greatest post-Cold War test by ending the Bosnian war. That success presents us with a new and perhaps even tougher challenge—securing the Bosnian peace. It is a challenge which the United States and Europe can only meet together.

Together we have transformed adversaries into allies and dictators into democracies. We have built institutions that ensure our security and economic strength. We stood together and won the Cold War. The road from war to peace in Bosnia is the most dramatic evidence that the trans-Atlantic partnership remains essential, and the most visible evidence that America remains committed to Europe's security.

It is most important to remember that the impetus to renew and redefine the relationship between the United States and Europe arose from its success. The end of the Cold War reflected the triumph of trans-Atlantic ideals. Today Bosnia, until recently a tragic example of post-Cold War disintegration, is a potential crucible

for deeper pan-European and trans-Atlantic cooperation.

Bosnia underscores a simple fact: Without a strong trans-Atlantic partnership, the prospect of a safer, richer, freer world will fade. A peaceful, prosperous and undivided Europe is within our grasp because of the singular success of our trans-Atlantic partnership.

We must now reshape our partnership to make it more responsive to current times. That is why, in June, Secretary of State Warren Christopher proposed new initiatives to strengthen economic, political and human ties across the Atlantic. And that is why President Bill Clinton traveled to Madrid this month to launch, together with European Union leaders, a New Transatlantic Agenda.

The agenda commits the United States and Europe to work together to implement the peace and help war-ravaged Bosnia to recover economically and politically. But it also looks beyond

Bosnia, establishing a common agenda for the 21st century.

In 1990, as the Cold War was ending, the United States and the then European Community agreed on an extensive series of consultations. Now, with a new world to shape, the United States and the European Union are committed to move beyond consultations to joint action in four major areas:

• Together we will promote peace, development and democracy around the world. In addition to our efforts in Bosnia, we will cooperate to consolidate democracy and market economies in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. To use scarce resources more efficiently, we will establish a high-level consultative group to coordinate our global development and humanitarian assistance efforts. We will cooperate to combat nuclear proliferation, most immediately by joint support for the Korean Energy Development Organization.

• Together we will meet new global challenges. Our top priority is to combat organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism through increased exchanges of information and expertise between European and U.S. law enforcement agencies and training of law enforcement officials in the new Central and East European democracies. We will coordinate our positions on major environmental issues, disseminate environmental technologies, and reduce public health risks from hazardous substances.

And, we will develop a global early warning and response system for new and re-emerging communicable diseases such as AIDS and the Ebola virus. • Together we will build a trans-Atlantic marketplace by reducing or eliminating barriers to our bilateral trade and investment. Trans-Atlantic economic relations, already the world's largest and freest, can set a standard for liberalization and regulatory harmonization that invigorate the world economy. We will negotiate agreements on mutual recognition of product testing and certification

and greater customs cooperation. Longer term, we seek to create a trans-Atlantic information society that allows our people to take full advantage of new information technology and services.

• Together we will build new trans-Atlantic bridges between our citizens. The agenda is also about people. By furthering exchange among our business communities, legislators, educators and students and by using new channels of communication, such as the Internet, we aim to nurture in present and future generations the mutual understanding and shared purpose that have long characterized our relationship.

The New Trans-Atlantic Agenda is a comprehensive road map for joint action and cooperation. The Madrid summit was only a first step in the process; a new trans-Atlantic consensus can only emerge incrementally as we pursue common goals. By working together and with other Atlantic democracies on this ambitious agenda, we can forestall future Bosnias and strengthen the basis of our own security and prosperity.

International Herald Tribune.

Ardent Europe-Builders Aren't Making Their Case to the People

By Max Jakobson

HELSINKI—The annual meeting of the leaders of the European Union, Friday and Saturday in Madrid, shapes up as one more round in the never-ending match between what are often called federalists and nationalists—more aptly described as believers and agnostics.

The believers are convinced that the process of integration must be carried forward, because to pause now would entail the risk of Europe sliding back into national rivalries and conflicts. In practical terms this means that they insist on economic and monetary union with a single currency, without delay, before the entry of new members from Central and Eastern Europe adds to the diversity of national interests and dilutes the sense of unity.

The agnostics believe that integration has gone far enough as it is and should be deepened only if

and when practical necessity so demands. It follows that they consider economic and monetary union and enlargement incompatible goals, because adoption of a single currency by the present member states would increase the qualitative distance between those inside and the queue of candidates waiting to be let in. Let unity grow organically, they say, rather than force it by institutional means.

At the heart of the debate is, as always, the issue of power—more precisely, German power. The full impact of the unification of Germany is still to come, but the decision to move the capital to Berlin underlines the inevitable shift in the European balance. No longer a West European state resting safely in the embrace of its allies, Germany now is the dominant power at the center of the

continent, with wide-ranging interests throughout the region formally under Moscow's control.

The traditional response to this change would be to create a counterweight to German influence, and closer cooperation between France and Britain in matters of defense is indeed developing. But such a return to the bad old days of balance of power politics is rejected by those who believe that the right answer is to deepen integration. Monetary union with a single currency is designed to tie Germany irreversibly into the Western community of nations.

That view is shared by the present German leadership under Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Time is getting short, they warn their allies. Tie us down now, or you may find the specter of Deutsche mark nationalism. The condition is,

however, that the other EU members adopt the German economic model of balanced budgets and low inflation. To the skeptics, like the British, this looks like Hobson's choice. Either German dominance is institutionalized, or it remains a fact of life anyway.

The schism between believers and agnostics may be papered over in Madrid, as it has been so many times before. A more acute threat to a deepening of integration is the growing gap between opinion upstairs and downstairs.

Nowhere within the Union are people marching in the streets demanding that Poland be let in, or that a single currency be issued. People worry about the lack of jobs, high taxes, crime and drugs, and immigration. They demonstrate against cuts in welfare benefits, disregarding the fact that these are now being paid for with money borrowed from our children and grandchildren.

The EU agenda is by no means irrelevant to these concerns; its goal is a more stable, competitive and prosperous Europe where economic and social problems can be better managed. But governments have so far failed to make this connection and thus engage public support for their ambitious projects.

Have our political leaders forgotten their Machiavelli? He warned the Prince that "there is nothing more difficult to plan or more uncertain of success or more dangerous to carry out than an attempt to introduce new institutions, because the introducer has as enemies all those who profit from the old institutions."

And the reformer has only lukewarm defenders, for "men

do not actually believe in new things unless they see them yielding solid proof."

Events in Prague demonstrate that Machiavelli's analysis of the hazards of institution-building remains valid. Only strong leadership can overcome the resistance of those who profit from the present system, and mobilize active support for a policy of change.

International Herald Tribune.

A U.S. Imperial System

NEITHER the Romans nor the British planned to make themselves empires. No more did America. There came a time when it awoke to the fact that it had done so by abysmal inactivity.

The three imperial systems are as different as the epochs in which they flourished. Ours is, as before our times, democratic and egalitarian; it is not infrequently marked by humane conduct and elevated intent, as the Bosnia endeavor exemplifies.

We derive much from it, but it is costly in lives and money. Indeed, the American imperial system—whose costs extend beyond the direct procurement of weapons to trade and monetary policy—seems to be slowly reducing us to beggary, as Britain was finally pauperized by its empire.

Whether America should carry on with it is a debate best left for another moment, not when the troops are ramping up into the mouths of the transports about to fly them to who knows what adventures in the mountain-graded lands of the southern Slavs.

—Nicholas von Hoffman, writing in The Washington Post.

Why Beijing Fears Its Democrats

By A. M. Rosenthal

TOKYO—The top-ranked academic sent by Beijing to a conference of intellectuals from around the world asked for the floor to explain his government's policy on human rights. Shuqing Wu, president of Beijing University, spoke for only five or six minutes, but with careful clarity.

By the time he finished it was utterly plain that the Chinese Communist government was flat-out determined not to allow the Chinese people to take part in the historic movement that is spreading in Asia: the simultaneous development of prosperity and political freedoms.

This was what he had to say: In colonial wars and imposed peace, the West brutalized China. In Shanghai, Europeans posted a sign at the gate to a park, "No dogs or Chinese." China had been prevented from developing economically. Now the task was economic development. Without that, there was no use speaking about developing what the West called human rights.

Early in the conference on "The Future of Hope," sponsored by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity and by the Japanese daily Asahi Shimbun, had come to understand that this man only spoke officially. He never winged a word.

Outside the conference building, in the reality of Asia, was the proof that the Chinese rigidity toward human rights did not come from the injustices of the past but from fear of the future.

No city in China, none in the world, was destroyed as was Hiroshima. Few countries were as

devastated as Japan. But Hiroshima, Nagasaki—every Japanese city bombed out in World War II—is gleaming with modern buildings, commerce and technology. They make a New Yorker feel like a country boy.

They were rebuilt within political democracy. No forced prison labor, no gulag, no torture cell was part of the rebuilding of Japan as all have been for the half-century that the Communist Chinese have been in power.

Political democracy and economic development are siblings in more and more countries in Asia. Ten years ago I traveled in countries that had been stagnating under despotism for decades, among them South Korea and the Philippines.

In 1961 I was in Seoul, watching the military overthrow of the country's first democratically elected government. America looked on passively. Now South Korea is politically free and economically burgeoning and is arresting past presidents on charges of corruption and massacre.

In the Philippines, a democratic candidate supported by the United States ended the reign of Ferdinand Marcos, husband of the lady with the shoes. In Tokyo now, I read in The Wall Street Journal that Philippine workers are turning out the best cars made by Honda in Asia outside Japan, and the workforce of the country has shaken off its "mañana" reputation.

On Taiwan, the long dicta-

torship of the Chinese Nationalists is over. The campaign earlier this month for a new legislature was free and boisterous, which infuriated China. So is the economy. The cement mixer should be Taiwan's official flower.

India chose both national and political freedom on Aug. 15, 1947, the day of its birth. Unlike the Chinese, India does not impose abortion or vasectomies to deal with its biggest problem, population growth that eats up economic progress. Still, its economy grows and India's computer specialists are among the world's finest.

Asians are proving—if it ever needed proof except in the condescending West—that they can handle economic and political growth at the same time, thank you.

But in Hiroshima there was Beijing's emissary letting 10 Nobel Prize winners and other scientists, writers and politicians know that while the Chinese are clever and able enough to leap into the high-tech age, the Politburo feels that dealing with a little freedom at the same time would be beyond them.

The Chinese Communists know better. Like all dictators, they live in fear that their people will demand political and economic freedom—altogether. When the Politburo members look out the window at Asia, it is not the past and foreigners but the future and their own people that chill the souls of the Politburo and the careful messenger they sent to Hiroshima.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Crisis in Spain

MADRID—The great popular demonstration of Monday [Dec. 9] has brought about a Ministerial crisis. The indignation has been directed chiefly against Senor Romero Robledo, Minister of Justice, and Senor Bosch, Minister of Public Works. In order to facilitate the solution of the crisis, the entire Ministry has decided to resign. It is believed that the Queen Regent will charge Senor Canovas del Castillo to form a new Ministry, whose first official act would be to dissolve the Cortes.

1920: Bell Makes a Call

LONDON—A wireless telephone conversation was carried on between London and Geneva this morning [Dec. 12], when Dr. Alexander Graham Bell congratulated Lord Riddell and Mr. Marconi. The conversation took place from ordinary desk telephones in the Strand to the conference hall

in Geneva where the assembled correspondents heard the messages on individual receivers. The 617-mile talk was the first between Switzerland and London. The voices were very clear.

1945: Considerate Strikes

PARIS—Civil service employees conducted one of the politest strikes in history yesterday [Dec. 12] when more than 2 million workers participated in a token 2-hour walkout. Subways in Paris were briefly halted and thousands of office workers ceased work to protest the government's refusal to grant a wage increase. The strikers did not inconvenience people more than necessary. Electricity was not shut off any more than usual. Courteous notices were put up at subway stations advising that service would be interrupted. Inconvenienced passengers were advised that if they came back in an hour they could resume their ride without paying another fare.

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Hollywood's Gravy Train: Films That Fuel Violence

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INTERNATIONAL

Rivalries Divide French Unionists

As Worker Totals Drop, They Struggle for Power

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The French strikes are being led by three large labor confederations that are at war not only against the government but also among themselves as they struggle to keep their share of a dwindling number of organized workers.

The International Labor Organization in Geneva estimates that in 1993 only 10 percent of French workers belonged to unions, compared with 18 percent in 1980. The unions are most heavily represented among the striking public workers, which explains why the stoppages have not spread to the private sector.

Their historic rivalry means that the unions have been intransigent, fearing that any concession would be interpreted as a sign of weakness.

Only Nicole Notat, the leader of the French Democratic Labor Confederation, or CFTD, has supported Prime Minister Alain Juppé's proposals to overhaul the health system.

Although her position has cost her some support, she says some of the key ideas proposed by Mr. Juppé originated with her organization. She appears to believe that by being constructive, she can turn the CFTD into a German-style union capable of negotiating on equal terms with government and employers.

In taking this stand, she is moving onto the ground held until now by Workers' Force, or FO, which broke away from the Communist-led General Confederation of Labor (CGT) in 1947, and was nurtured with CIA funds as an anti-Communist force in the Cold War.

The FO has been a privileged government partner and for the past 28 years has had the responsibility of running the main health fund, an important source of jobs and influence.

Mr. Juppé's proposal to make Parliament responsible for the fund has infuriated the FO's boss, Marc Blondel, who alleges that the state is trying to take over the welfare system.

Mr. Blondel, a chubby, cigar-chomping, lifelong union worker who talks of himself in the third person as "Blondel" or "the secretary-general," has been a driving force behind the strikes. In a historical reversal to the 1940s, when the Socialists were more radical than the Communists, he apparently wants to show that his confederation is more militant and effective in protecting workers' rights than the CGT.

But critics say Mr. Blondel has lost face during the dispute and could face difficulties when he comes up for re-election in February. First he had to appeal to the CGT for support when it became apparent that FO on its own could not summon the necessary support for a day of mass action. Then he exchanged a historic handshake with the CGT secretary-general, Louis Vianet, in the first such symbol of amity since the 1947 scission. This has worried some of the more moderate elements in the FO, who are agitated at the prospect of a protracted war against the government alongside their old enemies.

Mr. Blondel has shifted his position from a demand that Mr. Juppé drop his proposed changes entirely to a demand for comprehensive negotiations with the prime minister. The labor conflict has provided the CGT with an opportunity to halt a spiral that has seen its membership decline since 1977 by two-thirds to about 640,000, of whom only about 480,000 are active workers.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism, the CGT — along with the Communist Party — has looked marginal and isolated. Now, Mr. Vianet appears to be poaching on the middle ground occupied by Mr. Blondel's legions by offering to negotiate with the government without imposing preconditions.

Mr. Vianet, a former postal worker, emerged from the CGT's triennial conference last week with his personal authority enhanced.

He has prudently avoided reaching too far by calling for a general strike. However, the CGT was the main instigator of Tuesday's mass demonstrations against the welfare changes.

Some critics say that the unions have kept the labor conflict alive with methods that seemed like a throwback to the Cold War, with manipulated assemblies, threats to opponents, ostracism of the undecided and demands for capitulation rather than negotiation.

But the fact that the conflict has dragged on for nearly three weeks without forcing major concessions from the government and without attracting serious practical support from nonpublic workers raises questions about the future of the union movement in France.

FRANCE: Huge Protest Marches

Continued from Page 1

move the site of an international conference on Bosnia planned Wednesday and Thursday out of Paris to a 13th-century monastery at Royaumont, beyond the airport at Roissy.

The official signing of the agreement negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, is still scheduled at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

In his efforts to reach a compromise, Mr. Juppé has committed himself only to sparing the rail workers by shelving an overhaul of the state rail authority.

That would preserve special advantages enjoyed by the workers and abandon a plan to force them to work two and a half years longer, for a total of 40 years, before they can collect a full pension.

But Mr. Juppé has insisted that he will retain the bulk of his other proposed reforms, including an overhaul of the comprehensive state health system, which has an annual deficit equal to \$12 billion.

The government is also planning to impose a 10 percent surtax on corporate profits and to raise social security taxes to 2.9 percent of taxable income, up from 2.4 percent now.

Mr. Juppé's plan also aims at pushing retirement age in the public sector to 65 years instead of 60.

The goal is to use the money to overcome a huge deficit, thus qualifying France to join the European Union's single currency plan in 1999. Member states must bring government spending under a ceiling to join the currency plan.



A striking French railway worker holding a smoke torch during a protest parade in Caen. Similar protests were staged throughout the country.

CHINA: Dissident's New Trial Raises Fears of a Resurgence of Hard-Line Leadership

Continued from Page 1

States on Monday to lobby lawmakers on her brother's behalf. The groups say that President Bill Clinton, by soft-pedaling human-rights issues in his October meeting with President Jiang Zemin and by severing the link between human rights and trade, might have led the Chinese government to think it could sentence Mr. Wei without severe repercussions.

A spokesman for the Chinese court said Monday that Mr. Wei's trial would be open, an unusual step in political cases. The court said, however, that foreign lawyers would not be

allowed to participate. Mr. Wei's family has hired Zhang Shishi, who defended the dissidents Wang Jintao and Chen Ziming when they were tried for participating in the 1989 democracy demonstrations. They were each sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Mr. Wei was the most daring and influential of the so-called Democracy Wall activists who in late 1978 printed magazines and posted democracy manifestos on a wall west of the former Forbidden City, now part of the leadership's compound.

At that time, Mr. Deng had returned to power and promised to deliver China from the political upheaval of the Cultural Revolution and to undertake four modernizations: in agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defense.

While many Chinese welcomed Mr. Deng's return after a turbulent decade, Mr. Wei and other activists were critical. He said Mr. Deng's program would fail without a "fifth modernization" — democracy.

Unlike political reformers within the Communist Party, Mr. Wei and his associates at Exploration magazine in 1978 totally rejected Marxism-Leninism. He said Marxist countries were "without exception undemocratic and even

possibilities in trying to explain why Mr. Wei is being put on trial now. Some suggest China wants to use a convicted and resented Mr. Wei as a bargaining chip to persuade other governments to back off from a critical human rights resolution at the UN. That concern could also help explain the Chinese government's effort to make the trial look more legitimate.

Others say China could be preparing to expel Mr. Wei and needs to show toughness by first handing him a long prison term, just as it did with the Chinese-born American Harry Wu, who was detained on espionage charges this summer.

Analysts point out several

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MEDICINE: Ovary Technique

Continued from Page 1

dine Healy, dean of the College of Medicine at Ohio State University and a former head of the National Institutes of Health.

One possible use of the treatment that fascinates and worries observers is the removal and storage of an ovary of a healthy woman in order to replace it in her at menopause. Such a use might allow women to remain fertile their entire lives.

Dr. Healy said that the treatment "sounds exciting" for women with cancer and that she also endorsed the idea, in the future, of using ovary transplants to forestall menopause. But, she said, she is worried about elderly women becoming pregnant.

Amy Langer, director of the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, said she was concerned that the treatment would be offered to cancer patients in a setting where the only outcome of interest would be fertility. She also worried, she said, that the hormones secreted by a transplanted ovary might fuel the regrowth of cancer.

The new technique originated in England. Roger Gosden of the University of Leeds developed the treatment, first showing that it could succeed in sheep. By the time he published his first article on the animal work, in April 1994, he had already frozen and stored a woman's ovary to reimplant after her cancer was in remission.

He has removed and frozen the ovaries of three more patients, including one from a 3-year-old girl with Wilms tumor, a childhood kidney cancer, who was due to have chemotherapy.

No one has yet put a frozen ovary back, however, because it can take years before a woman is demonstrably free of cancer and ready to have her ovary returned to her.

Alan de Cherny, chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Tufts University School of Medicine and former president of the Society for Assisted Reproduction, was taken aback when he heard of the institute's plans to freeze ovaries of cancer patients.

"It's a bold step," he said, but since women with cancer have no other options for preserving their fertility, then "theoretically, it sounds fine."

Reproductive technology, he added, is being driven by the marketplace, and researchers are quick to jump on advances that could benefit large numbers of women.

Dr. Gosden in England is waiting to see if his treatment works in the women whose ovaries he has frozen before doing any more.

And he also has not yet accepted women with breast cancer because he fears that restoring ovarian functions in these women might set off a recurrence of their cancer.

PILOTS: Bosnian Serbs Release 2 Frenchmen

Continued from Page 1

sevic on Sunday sent the Yugoslav president, Zoran Lilic, to Pale, the Bosnian Serbian capital, to tell the leadership there they had to divulge the whereabouts of the pilots and whether they were alive.

He apparently carried a blunt message that Belgrade controlled the purse strings of the Bosnian Serbian Army — including the paychecks of the officers — and that unless the issue of the pilots was dealt with there would be severe financial consequences.

The message was particularly dire, since the morale of the Bosnian Serbian Army is shattered by military defeat and requirements under the peace agreement to reduce forces.

Just before the pilots were driven up to the motel at Zvornik shortly after midday, General Mladic appeared to be in a jovial mood, only glowing when the pilots had not arrived on time and demanding to know over the telephone where they were.

"This is what General Mladic is best at, to be in control of a situation, to be master of ceremonies," said a Belgrade official.

From General Mladic's point of view, giving up the two pilots may have spelled the end of an effort to negotiate his way out of his indictment for war crimes by the International War

Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

"General Mladic must be crazed to think that keeping the pilots would help him with The Hague but that seems to be the way he was thinking," one official said.

That view appears to be buttressed by Russia's proposal to the Hague tribunal on Monday that the indictments of Mr. Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serbian leader, be frozen.

Mr. Karadzic had also tried to play the pilots as a bargaining chip. He suggested last week that if France would engineer a change to the peace agreement and allow a part of Sarajevo to be kept by the Bosnian Serbs he would hand over the pilots.

Hopes for the safety of the pilots went up and down. They were known to have survived the downing of their jet and there were at least two failed helicopter rescue missions by NATO in the first week of September.

But hopes faded in mid-October when Mr. Karadzic, the president of the self-styled Bosnian Serbian Republic, announced they had been kidnapped from a hospital near Pale where they were being treated.

Senior United Nations military officials in Sarajevo told reporters last month that they believed the pilots were dead. On Friday, a rumor circulated around Belgrade that Mr. Milosevic's security service had told him the two men had been killed on orders by the Bosnian Serb security forces.

Bosnia's Muslims Must Be Armed, Senate Republicans Tell Clinton

Continued from Page 1

WASHINGTON — Senate leaders warned President Bill Clinton on Tuesday that they did not intend to vote on supporting his deployment of troops to Bosnia until he gave them a stronger assurance that Bosnian Muslims would be armed and trained to defend themselves.

Bob Dole of Kansas, leader of the Senate's majority Republicans, and John McCain, Republican of Arizona, said it was "essential to clarify these matters" before "moving forward with Senate consideration."

The senators, who are drafting a resolution to give reluctant and conditional approval of Mr. Clinton's troop deployment to Bosnia, said arming and training Bosnian Muslims was crucial to assure the departure of U.S. and UN troops.

BOOKS

RIPKEN: Cal on Cal

By Cal Ripken Jr. 112 pages. \$39.95. Summit.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

CAL RIPKEN JR.'s first venture into the gift book market turns out to be exactly what you'd expect from Cal Ripken Jr.: a solid performance, modest and workmanlike rather than flashy, good for the long haul.

It goes without saying that "Ripken: Cal on Cal" is designed to cash in on the great elation of the Baltimore Orioles shortstop earned this summer in his successful effort to break Lou Gehrig's "unbreakable" major-league record of 2,130 consecutive games played; but the book has absolutely no air of mere exploitation, and indeed it could be given to young readers as a gift both pleasurable and instructive.

The book consists of a relatively brief text by Ripken, presumably given professional polish by the editor, Mark Vancil, and color photographs by Walter

Iooss Jr. Some of these pictures appeared in Sports Illustrated earlier this year, while others see print for the first time.

What may surprise some readers is that Ripken's text is every bit as interesting as Iooss's photographs. Even if he enjoyed an editor's help, Ripken is an uncommonly thoughtful and articulate man who happens to be an athlete, and those qualities shine through in these words. Even as Ripken acknowledges "the kid inside me," what he says reveals a man of maturity and common sense whose measured approach to every aspect of his life has paid ample rewards.

At a time when the United States celebrates self rather than community, it is useful and heartening to hear from a famous athlete to whom team is more important than self and whose appreciation of the contributions others have made to his success appears to be bottomless. There is no reason to believe that Ripken's modesty is anything except genuine; when he says, "Let's not forget that I'm just a ballplayer" and

cautions against letting his achievements mushroom out of perspective, what we are hearing are rare words spoken in an uncommon voice.

Ripken's devotion to his parents is deep and touching. His father, a minor-league ballplayer who eventually went to the majors as a coach and, briefly, manager of the Orioles, seemed from the stands to be a rather cold, stern man, but in his son's eyes he was the ultimate exemplar. Over and over again, Ripken Jr. recounts the small and large ways in which Ripken Sr.'s model shaped his life, whether it be learning to play despite injuries or picking up balls after batting practice. As Ripken Jr. puts it: "I know I wanted to copy everything my dad did — how he dressed, how he put on his baseball uniform. I thought my dad knew the right way to do everything."

As his comments about his parents suggest, Ripken is one of those people fortunate enough to have had a happy childhood that imprinted itself indelibly on the adult he eventually became. He writes that he

never had any particular appetite for autographs, since he grew up around ballplayers, but that he treasured balls and gloves they sometimes gave him. "When I was looking for houses a few years ago," he writes, "I was taken through a house that still had people living there. I went into the kid's room and looked around at all the stuff, and up on the dresser there was a ball I had signed. It was sitting right on top of the dresser where I would have had my ball, or shiny rock, or whatever I thought was important at the time."

Of this singular moment Ripken says, with characteristic understatement, "The fact that it was on top of the dresser, the same place I put my things, struck me." It strikes the reader, too: as an unexpected and revealing glimpse inside a man who has learned to keep his privacy, a man sufficiently observant and sensitive to understand, and appreciate, what that baseball really meant.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

Sanctions On Lagos Weighed

U.S. Considers An Oil Embargo

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Assistant Secretary of State George Moose said Tuesday that the United States was considering a multilateral oil embargo on Nigeria as part of push for a transition to civilian rule there. "Nothing is ruled out, everything is on the table, including a possible multilateral oil embargo," Mr. Moose told a House panel on human rights and Africa.

Mr. Moose said the November elections of the playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other human-rights campaigners had "profound implications for policies aimed at encouraging a rapid return to elected civilian rule in Nigeria."

Acknowledging that an international oil embargo would be difficult to organize, Mr. Moose said, "While we believe multilateral measures would be more effective than unilateral ones, we are not averse to acting unilaterally if the situation demands it."

An international embargo would be in line with a campaign by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, who has urged that such sanctions be imposed on Nigeria's crude oil exports, which account for 80 percent of government revenues.

Several members of the panel, notably Amory Houghton Jr., Republican of New York, support an embargo against Nigeria, which Mr. Houghton called "a Class-A country that is acting in a Class-D manner."

He said various diplomatic and administrative measures taken against the Lagos government since the Nov. 10 elections had not brought results.

Mr. Moose defended the Clinton administration's stance on Nigeria, saying it had announced punitive measures on the day of the hangings, including visa restrictions, a ban on arms sales, an end to aid to the Nigerian government and a suspension of consideration of loan applications.

Legislation that would impose sanctions on Nigeria, not including an oil embargo, was introduced in the House on Nov. 30.

The measure would add to White House sanctions by limiting air transport, keeping Nigerians out of the United States, freezing new investment and freezing the assets of any Nigerian who impedes the course toward democracy.

Also, a sports boycott is being considered, including keeping Nigeria out of the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The British-Dutch Royal Dutch/Shell Group has come under sharp criticism for its operations in Nigeria, where it is by far the largest oil company.

Railroad Crash In German Alps

The Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTEN-KIRCHEN, Germany — An express train crashed into a special rail sightseeing coach packed with tourists in this Alpine resort Tuesday, killing one person and injuring 57, officials said.

One of the injured was in critical condition. The dead man was a 58-year-old Munich resident, the police said.

Most of the victims came from a vintage "glass train," which has large windows for better viewing, a railroad spokesman said.

READ: Or Don't, if French

Continued from Page 1

you in the face," Liberation said. Albert Tzannan, a survey organizer at the OECD's education and training division, said he was puzzled by the French reaction because France was the first country to commit itself to participate in the survey.

He added that even though France fared poorly overall, it ranked first in the 16-to-24 age category, which confirmed the quality of its educational system.

But the elimination of France from the results made it impossible to determine the country's position in two of the survey's categories — the ability to interpret tables, charts and graphs, and the quantitative portion, which asked individuals to calculate, for example, the percentage of calories in a cheeseburger that comes from fat.

Claude Thélot, a director in the French Education Ministry,

rejected the findings because he said the report's methodology was flawed. "It's not a survey," he said, "it's a collection of statistics comparing different countries."

"I was all the more convinced of the flaws when I saw the results," he said, "particularly since each country defined its own control conditions."

Mr. Thélot said all evidence suggested that general literacy in France was continuing to rise, with only one in seven children entering first grade without having already achieved basic reading skills.

As for the report, "it's an interesting and novel study, but it has certain weaknesses," he said. "From the start, the rules were that any country could pull out."

He also said that the tests were influenced by what he called "Anglo-Saxon culture," meaning that the French were asked "things the French don't learn."

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.

FICTION

This Week	Last Week	Weeks on List
1 FIVE DAYS IN PARIS, by Danielle Steel	1	2
2 THE CHRISTMAS BOOK, by Richard Paul Evans	3	6
3 THE LOST WORLD, by Michael Crichton	2	10
4 SILENT NIGHT, by Mary Higgins Clark	4	8
5 POLITICALLY CORRECT HOLIDAY STORIES, by James Finn Garner	8	8
6 THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF VIRTUES, edited by William J. Bennett. Illustrated by Michael Hague	5	5
7 THE HORSE WHISPERER, by Nicholas Evans	7	12
8 THE BURNING SECRET, by Amy Tan	6	6
9 MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT, by Sandra Cisneros	9	12
10 THE CELESTINE PROPHET, by James Redfield	10	93
11 THE ISLAND OF THE DAY BEFORE, by Umberto Eco	3	3
12 COMING HOME, by Rose Amato Picard	12	14
13 BEACH MUSIC, by Pat Conroy	21	21
14 PINKO MOON, by Toyah Willingham	6	6
15 LOVE ME FOREVER, by Johanna Lindsey	11	4

NONFICTION

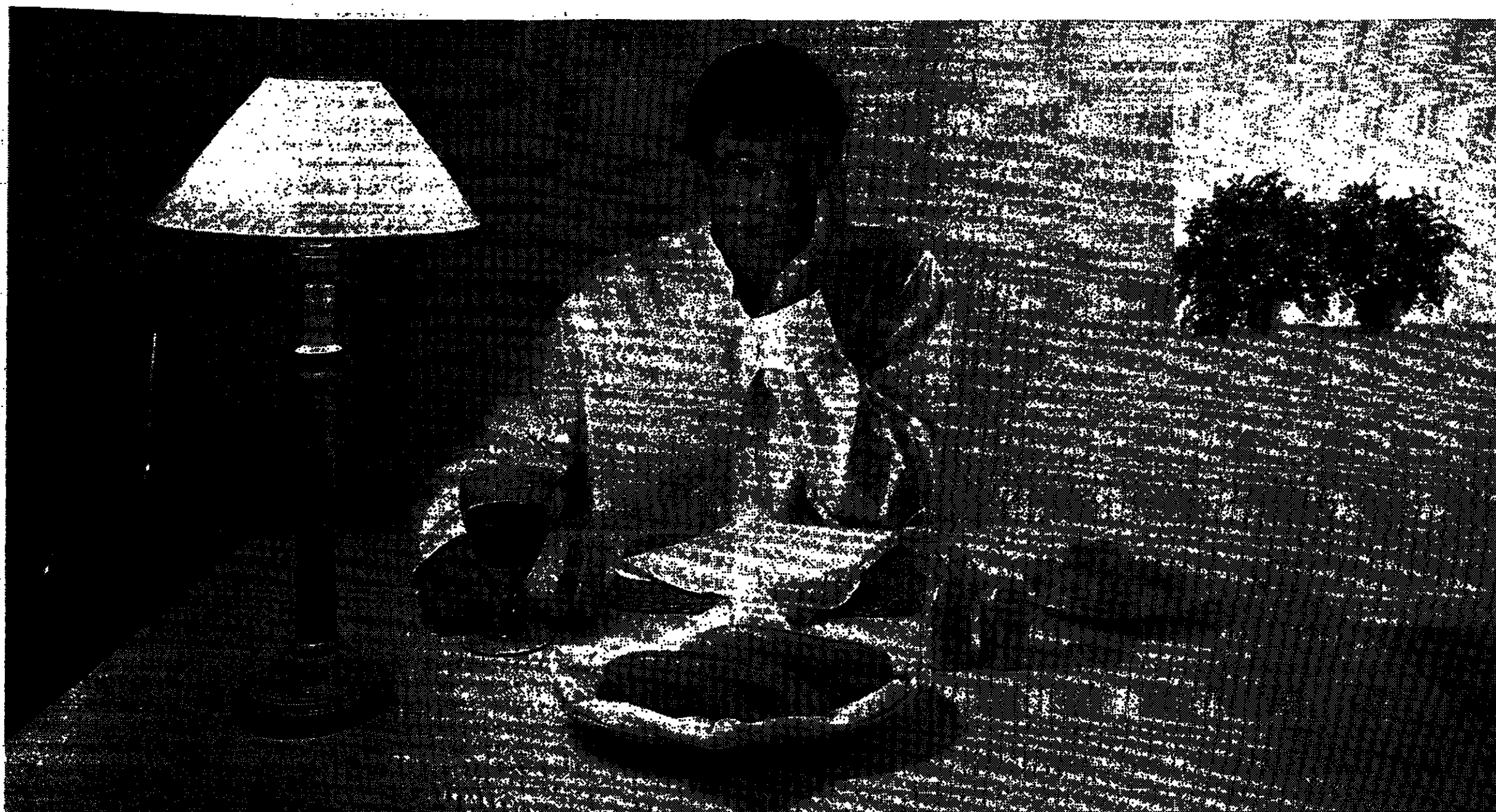
1 MY AMERICAN JOURNEY, by Colin L. Powell	2	11
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2 MISS AMERICA, by Howard Stern	1	3
3 CHARLES KURLAND'S AMERICAN, by Charles Kurland	3	6
4 THE ROAD AHEAD, by Bill Gates with Nathan Myhrvold and Peter Rindos	4	10
5 DAVID BRINKLEY, by David Brinkley	6	4
6 EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, by Daniel Goleman	4	10
7 MY POINT-AND DO I HAVE ONE, by Ellen DeGeneres	5	14
8 SISTERS, Essays by Carol Saline. Photographs by Sharon J. Wolgamuth	8	50
9 LINCOLN, by David Herbert Donald	7	6
10 RETURN WITH HONOR, by Scott O'Grady	11	2
11 A SIMPLE PATH, by Mother Teresa. Compiled by Lucinda Vorley	13	2
12 DAYS OF OUR LIVES, by Lorraine Zeigler	9	3
13 A GOOD WALK SPOILED, by John Penstemon	12	25
14 MINUTE, by John Douglas and Mark Oshaker	10	3
15 THE MORAL COMPASS, edited by William J. Bennett	4	4

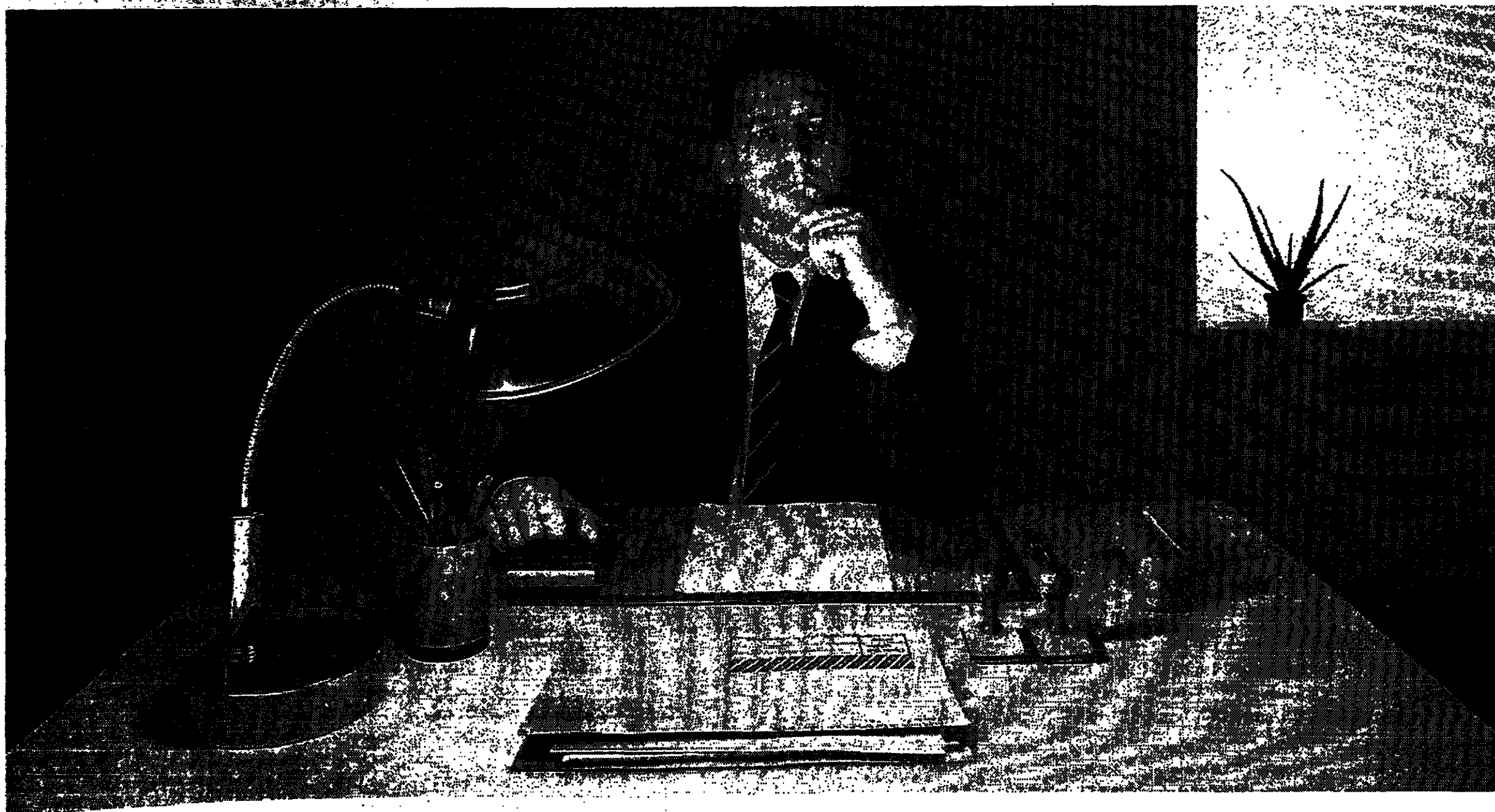
AND MISCELLANEOUS

1 MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray	1	133
2 THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS OF SUCCESS, by Stephen Covey	2	38
3 THE MARTHA STEWART COOKBOOK, by Martha Stewart	3	3
4 DAVID LETTERMAN'S BOOK OF TOP TEN LISTS, by David Letterman. Sieve O'Donnell, et al.	4	7

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Patti Smith on the Road Again — 'Well, It's Good to Be Alive'

By Neil Strauss
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — On Thanksgiving weekend, Patti Smith, the influential poet and musician of the 1970s, traveled to Philadelphia to visit the grave of her brother, Todd, who died of a stroke last year. She left not flowers but cigarettes.

The last time Smith, 49, saw her brother was at Thanksgiving 1994. It was then that he consoled her after the loss of her husband, the former MCS guitarist Fred (Sonic) Smith, who had died of heart failure only weeks before, and urged her to start performing again after a 16-year hiatus.

"When I saw my brother last year, he took me for a drive, and he had the soundtrack to 'Natural Born Killers,'" Smith said, speaking by telephone from Worcester, Massachusetts, on the way to a concert in Boston as part of a tour with Bob Dylan.

"My song 'Rock-and-Roll Nigger' is on it, and he put it on really loud, and we drove around. I was totally just desolate, and he said: 'I'm going to get you back on your feet. You're going to go back to

work. Working will help you.' He said, 'I'm going to be right there with you.' And that's the last time I saw him alive. We talked about it for a few days, and I felt that with his help I could do it. And he's still helping me in my heart."

From the belligerent Bohemian punk poet of the '70s who galvanized the New York underground to the loving wife and mother of the '80s who shocked her fans by disappearing to the Detroit suburb of St. Clair Shores, Smith has stayed true to the refrain of "Rock-and-Roll Nigger": "Outside of society is where I want to be."

Though Smith had only one hit, "Because the Night," which she wrote in 1978 with Bruce Springsteen, her spirit hangs over much of today's rock 'n' roll, from the dozens (possibly hundreds) of bands inspired by her 1975 debut album, "Horses," to the music of the alternative-rock band Sonic Youth, inspired not just by her poetry but also by her raucous guitar playing.

Where some fans snidely say that Smith withdrew from the music world to become a housewife, Smith takes pride.

"I don't mind being called a housewife,

though I didn't disappear to be a housewife," she said. "I disappeared to be by the side of the man that I loved. It was a sometimes difficult but always honorable position, and I think nothing greater could have happened to me at that time. I learned a lot of things in that process: humility, respect for others. We had two beautiful children, and I developed my skills and hopefully developed into the clean human being that I was as a child."

"People like to think that you went and stopped working," she continued.

"There's no job harder than being a wife and a mother. It's a position that should be respected and honored, not looked upon as some sappy alternative. It's much more demanding, and required much more nobility than the other work that I did. Hopefully, I can inject some of the things that I learned from that experience into the work that I'm doing now."

Smith appears to be taking on a new image in the '90s, that of an extremely empathetic and compassionate woman pushed back into the public eye by the hand of death. On the new album she is completing in New York, her first since

she recorded "Dream of Life" in 1988 with her husband, there are songs not only for Todd Smith (who was 44 when he died) but also for other talented musicians who fell victim to early deaths, including Kurt Cobain and Jerry Garcia.

"I've seen a lot of death lately," she said. "When we did 'Dream of Life,' I had a child, the engineer had a child and Jimmy Iovine, one of the producers, had a child. Three children were born in the process of making 'Dream of Life.' And now, when I look back at that record, Richard Sohl, my keyboard player, died and Fred died and Robert Mapplethorpe died, all of whom had key roles in the creating of that record. And so three children were born and three men died: that's the beautiful way of life."

In addition to the new album, to be released on Arista in the spring, Smith also has a book, "The Coral Sea," to be published in May by W.W. Norton, that she wrote when the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, one of her closest friends, died of AIDS in 1989. When asked which was more important to her, having her own music heard or spreading the names and

legacies of friends and relatives who had died, Smith quickly chose the second.

"I don't have any particular message right now," she said. "My main thing is to make a good life for my children, and to get strong myself. Globally, I'm most concerned with people showing consideration to each other and to the planet. Doing music in memory of and in respect to others will turn into other things because you have respect for your fellow man, you'll want things to be good for your fellow man. And, hopefully, that will extend to respecting the planet."

THE tour has been going smoothly so far, Smith said. Her band includes her longtime collaborators, the guitarist Lenny Kaye and the drummer Jay Dee Daugherty, as well as Tom Verlaine, the singer and guitarist in the band Television, which circulated in the same underground scene that Smith did in the '70s. Michael Stipe of R.E.M. is also traveling with her, not to make music but for support and encouragement. With Dylan's blessing, the band is performing his song "Wicked Messenger" in concert.

"The atmosphere was happy at our first show," Smith said. "I thought the audience was basically Bob's people, but they seemed real happy to see us because they know that I'm one of Bob's people, too. They couldn't lose, and neither could I. I feel nothing but joy. If I had to spar with a hostile audience every night, I'd still be happy."

Smith said she would not tour when her album comes out unless her children — her son, Jackson, 13, and her daughter, Jesse, 8 — are on school vacation. But that does not mean that her recent productivity is just an isolated burst.

"As long as I think that I have something worthwhile to impart on the people, I'll do work," she said. "I think right now if all I can do is be a small reminder to people that in the face of all of our difficulties, all of our sorrow, all of our personal tragedies and disappointments, we can still be all right."

Smith broke off in the middle of her sentence and paused. "I didn't really articulate that the way I wanted to," she continued. "Basically what I'm trying to say is, 'Well, it's good to be alive.'"



Jeremy Sinden as Toad, center, in the National Theatre production of "The Wind in the Willows," now at the Old Vic.

'Jungle Book' Tales From the Victorian Undergrowth

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Though his management of the Young Vic is still precarious, since the theater seems to do best when on rental to such outside forces as the RSC or Théâtre de Com-

plément, Tim Supple is building up a useful line in intelligent Christmas shows for children who wish to venture beyond pantomime, but not as far as Broadway. Last year at this time, he gave us a strongly flavored adaptation (his own) of "Grimm's Tales" and now we get Kipling's "The Jungle

Book" similarly stripped down to the bone (in this case quite literally, since we are among the ravenous beasts of Shere Khan's neighborhood).

Disney has already picked these tales over for cartoons, but then that studio had also ransacked Grimm. What Supple does is to get us away from the wide-screen musicals and back to something very much more dramatic and immediate, the telling of primal tales unencumbered by any showbiz or sentimental apparatus. His "Jungle Book" is no more politically correct than Kipling was, and it does not attempt to persuade contemporary children that they have to make allowances for or bring any current sensibilities to bear on the proceedings. They just have to watch and listen and learn how things were in these particular stories.

The case against Kipling is much like the case now made against J.M. Barrie or Lewis Carroll: that they were paternalist psychiatric accidents waiting to happen and that their tales from and for the nursery would give any child psychologist lasting nightmares, never

mind the little children. I would also add that Kipling, alone of the three, can be numbingly boring, but in this brisk chase through the undergrowth of this Victorian jungle we get to follow Mowgli's coming-of-age adventures, as first beast and then man rejects him. It's a moral tale and a gripping one, agile in its playing as in its minimalist staging.

For those who prefer their tales from the wild woods to be rather more local, not to say specifically and class-consciously period English, the greatest Christmas triumph of the 1990s has undoubtedly been Alan Bennett's adaptation of "The Wind in the Willows," which, after four consecutive sold-out seasons at the National Theatre, now moves to the Old Vic where it will doubtless reappear annually until the millennium and well beyond.

True, Toad and Badger and Rat and Mole are now living in somewhat reduced circumstances. The Old Vic cannot provide the amazing central rotating drum of the Olivier stage, on which scenery could rise and fall while revolving at speed.

Instead, we get back to the more old-fashioned staging of "Toad of Toad Hall," with a now faintly tacky set gridding its way very slowly around and an equally out-of-date cast.

Yet the old magic still works. Bennett's brilliant realization

LONDON THEATRE

that Kenneth Graham was writing about people with specific social and even sexual problems, rather than animals having a bit of a lark, has given this play the wisdom of hindsight and all the magic of an old-fashioned story. With Toad as the rash young landowner about to lose the estate, the Weasels as the arriviste middle class, Badger as a faintly gay old professor, Rat as an irritable club bore and Mole as the nervous new boy, we are thrust headlong into a comedy of bad manners from which we never really escape nor ever really wish to.

Jeremy Sinden makes a splendidly bulbous Toad, and though the rest of the playing is a little subdued still, this is the perfect Christmas treat for anyone of any age still retaining any curiosity about the mobbery with violence that was the making of modern Britain.

At the King's Head, "Swing-time Canteen" is just terrible. No less than three writers are credited with "the book," which turns out to be at best a pamphlet and a remarkably

shoddy one at that. Having decided that there were a few quite good songs from World War II that had escaped previous poster-based anthologies of this nature, the writers have cobbled together a pathetic tale about an all-girl band from the Hollywood Canteen setting out on an abortive tour of Europe.

In order to string together some woefully tacky songs, from "My Shining Hour" (which it patently was not) to everything you ever managed to forget from the Andrews Sisters, we have to lurch through this gruesome apology for a plot, not to mention one of the worst Marlene Dietrich impersonations that I have ever had to witness.

This is not, let me hasten to add, a King's Head production, since it fails that theater's quality control on every level except the ability of the producers to pay rent for the space; it also sets back the cause of songbook shows by about 30 years, despite the fact that it has unfathomably managed to survive the past season off-Broadway, where there must be precious little around by way of entertainment. An all-English quintet does its best to look like tough American broads on the road and fails spectacularly. That is the only thing spectacular about this misbegotten, shambling mishmash, one that accentuates not the positive but the deeply negative.



Marit Sauramo (left) and Jorma Hynninen.

Finnish Opera: An Oasis in a Desert Landscape

By David Stevens
International Herald Tribune

NANTES, France — The rise in the last 20 years of a group of Finnish composers writing for the theater has appeared on the world operatic landscape like an oasis in the middle of the desert.

The latest demonstration is the startling popular success here of the first of the new Finnish operas to find its way to France, "Kullervo," the fourth opera by Aulis Sallinen, the 60-year-old composer who is the best known and most prolific of this group. The prolonged ovation given the work and production at the Théâtre Graslin — a performance sung in Finnish and without subtitles — suggests the communicative power of Sallinen's music.

Oddly enough, "Kullervo" had its world premiere in Los Angeles in 1992 before being the opening production of the new Finnish National Opera in Helsinki the following year. It was to have been the other way around, but delays in completion of the Helsinki theater decreed otherwise.

Sallinen is doubtless Finland's biggest musical export since Sibelius, who wrote no operas.

The story of "Kullervo" is taken from the "Kalevala," the Finnish national epic. The appearance of the "Kalevala" in literary form in the 19th century is linked to the rise of Finnish national feeling. Sallinen freely adapted his own libretto from the 19th-century play of the same name by Aleksis Kivi.

The story is not easygoing folklore. Kullervo, the title character, is the ultimate rebel without a cause, doomed, violently anarchic and self-destructive. Orphaned and sold into slavery by a fratricidal uncle, he unwittingly commits incest with a sister, and finally goes off seeking vengeance against society in general and his uncle in particular, before destroying himself by fire.

Sallinen is said to have once been a strict 12-tone man, but as an opera composer he is clearly readable and undoctrinaire. He appears to take his vocal writing straight from the particularities of the Finnish language — in ways reminiscent of Janacek or Mussorgsky in Czech and Russian — while the percussion-rich orchestra is transparent and contributes richly to the drama. While not intimidatingly "modern," this is real and highly individual theater music.

The chorus has a major narrative role to play, and the opera's most striking set piece is the long narrative by a blind singer who reveals the details of Kullervo's incest in a long ballad. It was sung by one of several Finns in the cast, Vesa-Matti Loiri, who apparently is a popular singer-actor.

Jorma Hynninen, the Finnish baritone well-known on the international circuit and the creator of the title role, was indispensable as Kullervo, richly sung and intensely dramatic. Authenticity was also provided by Teo Maiste and Eeva-Liisa Saarinen as Kullervo's parents, and Marit Sauramo as the blacksmith's wife, who meets a violent end when an erotic episode with Kullervo goes wrong.

THE cast also had French and other singers who performed convincingly in an unfamiliar tongue. Gilles Ragon as Kullervo's youthful companion was excellent, and Frédéric Vassar and Cynthia Buchanan were the disagreeable uncle and aunt.

Philippe Godefrid, the Nantes Opéra's artistic director, shared stage directing duties with Françoise Tertonne, who also supplied a dazzling variety of costumes, and they succeeded in giving a strong sense of movement to many scenes that tend toward immobility. The Orchestre Philharmonique des Pays de la Loire, as well as the house chorus, gave a highly convincing account of the score under Koen Kessels.

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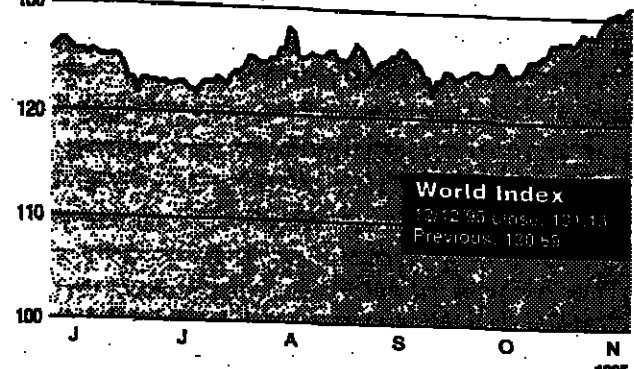
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	Per 100	Current	
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Canada	1.30	US dollar	71.00
France	1.66	US dollar	60.00
Germany	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Italy	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Japan	160.00	US dollar	0.62
UK	0.75	US dollar	133.00
Switzerland	1.48	US dollar	68.00
Sweden	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Spain	1.66	US dollar	60.00
South Africa	1.36	US dollar	73.00
South Korea	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Thailand	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Taiwan	1.36	US dollar	73.00
West Germany	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Yugoslavia	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Other Dollar Values			
	Per 100	Current	
Argentina	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Brazil	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Canada	1.30	US dollar	71.00
France	1.66	US dollar	60.00
Germany	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Italy	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Japan	160.00	US dollar	0.62
UK	0.75	US dollar	133.00
Switzerland	1.48	US dollar	68.00
Sweden	1.36	US dollar	73.00
Spain	1.66	US dollar	60.00
South Africa	1.36	US dollar	73.00
South Korea	1.36	US dollar	73.00
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Taiwan	1.36	US dollar	73.00
West Germany	1.36	US dollar	73.00
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World Index
131.13 (Dec 13, 1995)
Previous: 130.45

Asia/Pacific
Approx. weighting: 32%
Close: 132.72 Prev.: 132.19

Europe
Approx. weighting: 37%
Close: 135.27 Prev.: 135.92

North America
Approx. weighting: 28%
Close: 130.76 Prev.: 130.33

Latin America
Approx. weighting: 5%
Close: 88.54 Prev.: 88.99

World Index
131.13 (Dec 13, 1995)
Previous: 130.45

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Europe Awaits a German Rate Cut

By Erik Ipsen
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — For much of Europe, 1995 opened with strong economic growth and the fear that central banks would push up interest rates to fight the attendant inflationary pressures. Now, in the waning days of the year, the Continent is gripped by concern over an economic slump, and there are calls for interest-rate cuts to avoid it.

"So far no one is talking about recession, but you now at least have to mention the word with a question mark over it," said Holger Fahringer, an economist with Union Bank of Switzerland in Frankfurt.

After a stagnant third quarter in Germany, and a fourth quarter that many analysts are predicting will actually show shrinking business activity, the outlook for Europe's largest economy has turned dire. The hope in much of Europe is that the German economic scenario has grown sufficiently bleak to persuade the Bundesbank to cut interest rates — perhaps as soon as its monthly meeting on Thursday.

"If the Germans cut on Thursday, I think it will unlock a lot of cash elsewhere," said Stephen Hannah, director of bond research at IBI International Ltd. in London.

For the moment, though, they are reluctant to ease monetary policy unless Ger-

many acts first. Their fear is that unilateral cuts could give the foreign-exchange markets an excuse to send their currencies lower. That could cause inflation by making imports more expensive.

That is especially true in Britain, where the chancellor of the Exchequer and the governor of the Bank of England meet Wednesday to set monetary policy. The meeting takes place against the backdrop of a slowing economy and a currency that has recently touched new lows against the pound. Mr. Hannah said it was unlikely that Britain would cut rates alone.

In spite of the Bundesbank's habit of setting monetary policy solely on the basis of monetary indicators, many analysts say a rate cut is inevitable. The debate is over timing: Will rate cuts come in December, or will the Bundesbank wait until early next year?

The consensus in favor of a German rate cut has been driven by economists' forecasts for German growth in 1996. In the early autumn, many said the economy would grow by more than 2.5 percent next year, but predictions of growth well below 2 percent are now more common.

Attention in Germany has focused on the stubbornly high unemployment rate. "The labor market has not participated at all in what little growth we have seen," said Andrew Bosomworth, a bond strategist at Merrill Lynch & Co. in Frankfurt.

With an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent and growing, Germany faces a crisis.

"Even hard-core monetarists are now talking about the labor market and the burden on the economy of having nearly 3 million people unemployed," Mr. Bosomworth said, pointing out that monetarists draw their inspiration for action solely from the behavior of money supply.

The question that worries economists of all stripes is what will drive Germany forward in the new year. In 1994, and again in the first half of this year, that momentum came from exports. But German exports have sagged under the weight of the mark, which rose about 9 percent against the dollar last year and has risen about 7 percent this year.

Germany's stubbornly high jobless rate has scuppered hopes for much stimulus coming from consumer spending, in spite of tax rebates due in January of an estimated 20 billion to 25 billion DM (\$13.9 billion to \$17.3 billion).

With inflation and the growth of money supply now running below the Bundesbank's targets, analysts say the opportunity for a cut in the price of borrowing is there.

If it is seized, and if the Bundesbank also raises its targets for 1996 money supply growth, much of Europe will breathe a collective sigh of relief.

See RATES, Page 14

Machine Orders Spur Hopes for Japan Recovery

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — An economic indicator closely watched for signs that Japan could be heading for recovery rose sharply in October after falling for three months, according to official data released on Tuesday.

The government's Economic Planning Agency said private-sector machinery orders, excluding those from shipbuilding and electric power firms, rose a seasonally adjusted 11.8 percent in October from the previous month, the largest month-on-month rise since April.

Machinery orders had been falling since July.

Companies' capital investment in areas such as land, plant and machinery is being closely watched along with private consumption as an indication of economic recovery.

In September, Japan adopted a package of economic stimulus measures valued at 14 trillion yen (\$138 billion) with the aim of getting the economy out of the prolonged doldrums that followed the bursting of the country's 1980s economic "bubble" of inflated land and stock prices.

"The rise shows capital investment is recovering gradually," said an official of the Economic Planning Agency after the release of the figures.

Isamu Miyazaki, chief of the agency, has said that Japan's economy should grow about 1 percent in the current fiscal year ending on March 31, 1996, and by more than 2 percent in the following year.

Japan is currently preparing reforms of the tax system reforms and a state budget for the next fiscal year with the aim of bolstering the economy.

Separately, Japan's top 200 major companies listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange are pro-

Prices Rise, Trade Gap In U.S. Falls

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Wholesale prices shot up 0.5 percent in November, the Labor Department said Tuesday, as food and motor-vehicle costs soared. Energy prices fell for a sixth straight month.

Analysts said the report reflected a slight increase in cost pressures, although they noted that food prices were volatile and said the auto and light truck increases probably were due to problems in adjusting for seasonal variations. U.S. stock prices were down slightly in response. (Page 14).

The Labor Department said Tuesday the advance in its Producer Price Index was the third in five months and the largest since a similar 0.5 percent gain in January.

Separately, the Commerce Department said the U.S. current-account trade deficit, after showing one of its biggest deficits ever in the second quarter, narrowed 8.7 percent, to \$39.48 billion, in the third quarter. The deficit in merchandise trade shrank by \$5.37 billion, to \$43.43 billion, as exports climbed 1.7 percent.

(AP, Reuters)

U.S. Executive Denies Bribing Branson

The Associated Press

LONDON — The head of a U.S. company with a stake in operating Britain's national lottery is denying that he tried to bribe Virgin Group PLC's chief, Richard Branson, to pull out of bidding for the lucrative contract.

In a report Monday by BBC's Panorama news program, Mr. Branson accused Gary Snowdon, chairman of GTECH Holdings Corp. in West Greenwich, Rhode Island, of hinting at a bribe during a meeting in September 1993.

According to Mr. Branson, Mr. Snowdon said to him: "I don't know how to phrase this, Richard. There is always a bottom line. I'll get to the point — how can we help you?"

Mr. Branson told the BBC: "I was so flabbergasted, I went off to the loo and scribbled what he had said on a piece of

paper. No one's ever tried to bribe me before. It was very clear what he was trying to say."

GTECH, the world's largest manufacturer of lottery equipment, said Mr. Branson's claim was "beneath contempt."

In a strongly worded statement, Mr. Snowdon said he was appalled that the BBC broadcast an accusation "that is grossly defamatory and totally untrue."

"I did not attempt to bribe Richard Branson nor did I offer him any form of improper and unlawful inducement. Had I done so, Branson would have been under an obligation to report that fact" to regulators and police, he said.

Bidding was fierce for the contract to run Britain's national lottery, begun in November, 1994. The business was given to Camelot, in which GTECH has a 22 percent stake.

MEDIA MARKETS

Is India TV's Newest Eden?

By Richard Covington
Special to the Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — Hindu nationalists may be causing problems for American fast-food outlets in India, but Western television producers are basking that the country has a taste for foreign TV fare.

It is anyone's guess why such born-in-the-U.S.A. series such as the talk show "Oprah" and the cartoon series "The Simpsons" would play well in Bombay. But they do, apparently to audiences drawn inexorably to American popular culture — despite an increasingly vocal nationalist backlash.

Long wary of the Indian television market, Western broadcasters have recently started to move in as program piracy has slowly come under control and local payers have emerged to help navigate the maze of currency restrictions and other regulations.

In recent months, a raft of international broadcasters, including Sony Corp., Walt Disney Co., the ESPN sports network, the Discovery documentary channel, the MTV music channel and Turner Broadcasting System Inc. have plunged into a market that some say promises to be the most vibrant in Asia.

Zenith Media, a U.S.-based market analyst, said that with televisions in 43 million households, India already had a higher number of TVs than Britain and France combined. Total television advertising currently amounts to \$250 million and is expected to triple by the end of the century, Zenith said.

"India is likely to be a bigger market for Western producers than China will ever be,"

said Nicholas James, managing director for the Hong-Kong based Media Asia Group, a distributor of Chinese-language films and videos.

Despite an overall favorable broadcast climate, however, Indian authorities can be unpredictable, as Rupert Murdoch discovered earlier this year. During the course of a talk show that aired on STAR-TV, the satellite broadcaster owned by Mr. Murdoch's News Corp., an outspoken guest criticized the government. But it was Mr. Murdoch, not the guest, who came under fire.

According to an article that appeared in World Screen News, a media trade journal, a warrant was soon issued for Mr. Murdoch's arrest, effectively barring him from entering the country.

There are difficult barriers to cracking the market, said Kevin John McIntyre, vice president and general manager for the Discovery channel in Asia. He predicted a rough ride to profitability.

Analysts say that India's broadcast landscape is filled with anomalies and restrictions intended to protect local broadcasters. Cable operators, for example, are required to carry programming produced by the government broadcast monopoly, Doordarshan.

While a recent court ruling that partially freed the airwaves may chip away at the monopoly's domination, Doordarshan continues to be the only operator permitted to uplink its signal for satellite diffusion within the country.

This policy results in a puzzling display of

See TELEVISION, Page 21

Boeing Deal On Labor Lifts Stock

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEATTLE — Shares in Boeing Co. rose Tuesday after news that it had reached a tentative agreement with its biggest union on a contract that could end a two-month strike.

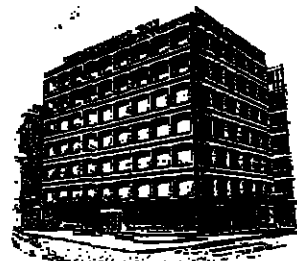
Boeing stock rose \$1.50, to close at \$74.375, in New York.

Rank-and-file members of the Machinists union, who rejected a previous contract proposal last month, will vote on the new deal Wednesday, officials said, and could be back at work Thursday if the deal passes.

More than 32,000 workers represented by the Machinists, nearly one-third of Boeing's work force, have been on strike since Oct. 6 in a dispute over health benefits and job security, bringing production to a virtual halt at Boeing, the world's biggest plane maker.

The new, four-year deal includes strengthened language on subcontracting for work now done by union workers and offers employees financial incentives to switch to a more restrictive health insurance program.

The Boeing machinists' average wage would rise from \$20.57 an hour to \$23, the union said. (Reuters, AP)



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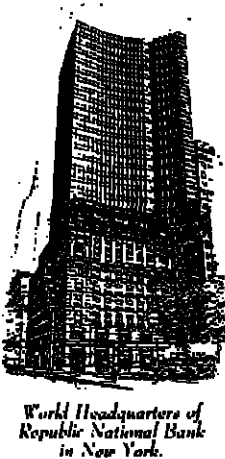
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Dec. 12										Eurocurrency Deposits										Dec. 12									
Cross Rates										Eurocurrency Deposits										Dec. 12									
	\$	£	D.M.	FF.	Lira	R.P.	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	₪	Peseta	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU											
Australian	1.605	2.615	1.112	6.224	27.00	17.75	—	546*	1.382	1.389	1.716	1.315*	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Belgium	20.875	4.015	26.235	2.995	1.857*	—	—	—	25.289	2.957	21.38	24.125*	1 month	5½-5½	4½-4½	2½-2½	6½-6½	5½-5½											
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.225	1.047	1.716*	—	3 months	5½-5½	3½-3½	2½-2½	6½-6½	5½-5½											
Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	6 months	5½-5½	3½-3½	2½-2½	6½-6½	5½-5½											
Italy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	1 year	5½-5½	3½-3½	2½-2½	6½-6½	5½-5½											
Japan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Netherlands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Portugal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Spain	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Sweden	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
Switzerland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
U.K.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
U.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
West Germany	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.382	1.389	1.716*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—											
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Currencies in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, figures in other centers.										Key Money Rates										Dec. 12									
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Currencies in Amsterdam, London, Milan, New York, Paris and Zurich, figures in other centers.																													

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Fiat's Fate at a Fork in the Road

Chairman's Exit Casts Spotlight on Aspiring Nephew

	Jun	High	Low	Close	Chgs	Open	High	Low	Close	Chgs	Open
Jun '96	94.22	94.20	94.18	94.20	-0.03	118	95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.15	94.15	0.05	118	95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
Prev. open int.	20.845	20.845	20.845				95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BONDS (LUFFE)											
Jun '96	106.45	106.58	106.59	106.59	+0.22	44,660	106.45	106.58	106.59	+0.22	44,660
May '96	106.45	106.58	106.59	106.59	+0.22	44,660	106.45	106.58	106.59	+0.22	44,660
Prev. open int.	20.845	20.845	20.845	20.845		721	95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
EST. SOL: 28.79% Priv. sol: 22.61%											
16-YEAR ITALY GOV. OF. 64%											
FF5000000	106.10	106.10	106.10	106.10			95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
Jun '96	119.62	119.62	119.56	119.56	+0.14		95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
May '96	119.62	119.62	119.56	119.56	+0.14		95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
Prev. open int.	118.96	118.96	118.96	118.96	+0.14		95.75	95.60	94.17	-1.41	94.87
EST. SOL: 12.26%											
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
May '96	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Prev. open int.	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
EURODOLLARS (CMER)											
\$1 million/1000000	94.20	94.20	94.20	94.20		10	94.20	94.20	94.20		10
Jun '96	94.20	9									

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS

December 12, 1995

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1. The first group of respondents (n = 10) was composed of students who had completed the course and were currently employed in a related field. These respondents were contacted via email and asked to participate in the study. The second group (n = 10) was composed of students who had completed the course and were currently employed in a related field. These respondents were contacted via email and asked to participate in the study. The third group (n = 10) was composed of students who had completed the course and were currently employed in a related field. These respondents were contacted via email and asked to participate in the study.

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— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

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In Lisbon For Business

LISBON HAS A LONG AND distinctive patrimony. Today, the city is a bustling capital that looks to Europe for its future.

Getting Around

Lisbon has a subway system, the Metropolitano, and buses and streetcars. Most are crowded; all are cheap. Taxis are plentiful, except when you need them, and relatively inexpensive. Many drivers speak some English. Metered fares do not include a tip: add about 10 percent. For journeys out of town, there are plenty of limos. Ask your hotel concierge to negotiate a price — and then try to bargain it down. You don't need to add a tip to the agreed fare.

We do not recommend taking a taxi — or driving yourself — along the coastal highway, the Marginal, to Estoril and Cascais. Recent studies have shown it to be one of the most dangerous highways in Europe. Instead, take the new A5 toll road or try the fast, frequent commuter trains, which start from a station near the ferryport on the river. The train offers a magnificent view of the sea.

At a Glance

Lisbon is built on hills facing the estuary of the River Tagus. Business Lisbon is compact, and most of the outstanding restaurants are located in the city center. The easiest way to visualize the city is to imagine one is landing from the Tagus at the Estação Fluvial Sul e Sueste.

To the right, rising steeply to a peak, is what remains of early Lisbon, the picturesque and crowded Alfama neighborhood, topped by St. Jorge's Castle, of Roman, Moorish and Visigoth origin. This was the old Moorish and Jewish quarter.

Straight ahead is the "new" city. The huge Praça do Comércio (Commercial Square), open to the sea at the front, is flanked by impressive, pinkish buildings, and leads through arches to another vast square, the Praça Dom Pedro IV, known as the Rossio. The area between, the Baixa, is the central commercial, banking and shopping district.

Back to the waterfront. Left, looking inland, are hills and a maze of streets, some of them extremely steep. This is the Bairro Alto, home of fado houses and some of Lisbon's best restaurants. Looking sharply left, the coast stretches along the Tagus to Estoril and Cascais, two fashionable resorts, the first with an elegant casino.

Now turn your back on the city of Lisbon and look across the river's broad mouth. There are some of the most important suburbs. There are also some good, crowded and noisy popular restaurants specializing in fish and seafood.

In a Word

Portuguese resembles both Spanish and Italian in written form but sounds entirely different when spoken. Most native speakers swallow whole syllables, so that *vinho tinto* (red wine) becomes *vin tint*. A surprisingly high proportion of Portuguese speak another lan-

guage, usually English.

Wining & Dining

Portugal prides itself on its gastronomy and offers a wide variety of dishes, most of which are earthy and filling.

Lisbon's best restaurants honor Portuguese traditions while refining the recipes. Fish and seafood are tasty and fresh.

Wines are an adventure. The very best — which are not cheap — rival those of France, Italy and Spain. And, of course, Portugal is the home of — you guessed it — port. You can drink a white port as an aperitif, but it is better to wait until the end of a meal for the red. Another good aperitif is Madeira, although it is usually drunk as a dessert wine.

Tips are not included in the check, so an extra 10

percent should be added to restaurant or bar bills. Tip café waiters and parking lot or toilet attendants from 50 to 100 escudos.

Aviz, 12B Rua Serpa Pinto, Tel.: 342-8391. A Belle Époque restaurant of extraordinary distinction, the best in Lisbon in our view. Lapped in luxury, guests are served food of outstanding quality by a staff that cannot be faulted.

Bonjardim, 10 and 11 Travessa de Santo Antão, Tel.: 342-7424. Two bustling restaurants facing each other and offering wonderful value. *Frango na brasa* is the high point: charcoal-grilled chicken accompanied by a fiery chili sauce.

Bota Alta, 3 Travessa da Queimada, Tel.: 342-7959. A cheerful bistro in the bohemian Bairro Alto quarter. Not for a serious business lunch, but definitely for relaxation after a day of successful negotiations.

Casa da Comida, 1 Travessa das Amoreiras, Tel.: 388-5376. A rising star in the Lisbon gastronomic galaxy, said by many to serve the best international cuisine. Tables set around a charming enclosed garden.

Club dos Empresários, António Clara, 46 Av. da República, Tel.: 796-6380. Situated in an elegant 19th-century mansion. Famous for delicious fish and for its wine cellar. Piano bar open till 2 A.M.

Conventual, 44 Praça das Flores, Tel.: 609196. Delicacies are based on convent and monastery recipes dating back to the 1500s. No bread-and-water diets here.

Cozinha Velha, Palácio de Queluz, Tel.: 435-0232. The former royal kitchen has been turned into an interesting restaurant, with high

stone arches, walk-in fireplace and walls lined with gleaming copper utensils. Fine Portuguese and other European dishes.

Gambrinus, 25 Rua das Portas de Santo Antão, Tel.: 342-1466. Many small rooms where fish and crustacea famous for their quality and variety are served. Open, blue-tiled kitchen. Popular with the business crowd.

Mercado do Peixe, Estrada Casal Pedro Teixeira, Vila Simão, Carmao de Ajuda, Tel.: 363-6942. Fish is carted in straight from the market. You choose your own fish from a display, it is cleaned in front of you, cooked on a huge charcoal grill and seasoned with the house's secret sauce. Other specialties: homemade *pao de chourico* and *pasteis de nata*. Walls covered with *azulejos* (decorative tiles).

Pabe, 27 Rua Duque de Palmela, Tel.: 353-5675. English pub-style decor: dark wood paneling, solid comfort. Top lunchtime venue for executives, politicians, newspaper editors and media people.

Papa Açorda, 57 Rua Atalaia, Tel.: 346-4811. Açorda is a hard-to-describe combination of seafood, bread and eggs. Potted palms, air-conditioning, friendly service, reasonable prices.

Rosa dos Mares, 110 Rua de Belem, Tel.: 364-9275. Located between Jeronimos Monastery and Belem Palace. Specializes in fish and seafood. Soft colors, bamboo furniture and a pleasant atmosphere.

Tagide, 18 Largo da Biblioteca Publica, Tel.: 342-0720. A great view of the Tagus estuary, good food and exemplary service.

Tavares, 37 Rua da Misericórdia, Tel.: 342-1112. Mirrors, crystal, and brocade decorate Lisbon's oldest restaurant. We've noticed a decline in quality, but the restaurant remains popular with businesspeople. Expensive.

Varina da Madragoa, 34 Rua Madres, Tel.: 396-5533. A traditional tavern converted into a restaurant, close to the legislative assembly, the Palácio São Bento. Simple, traditional fare served politely. Popular with embassy officials and journalists.

Country code: 351. City code: 1. The quality of the telecommunications system is still patchy, but has improved. With a cellular phone, a caller has a chance of reaching 90 percent of the population — as well as other parts of Europe. A telecom office and a series of trailers offer telecommunication services to the public. Telephones are finally changing to the digital system, and practically everyone works with a fax machine.

Emergencies: 115. Hospital: 860131/873131. Police: 366141. Automobile Club: 563931. Auto breakdown: 942-5095.

Airport: 802060. TAP city: 575020. Conventions: 352-5805. Tourist info: 346-3643. Railways: 876025. Radio taxis: 793-2756/828016.

Excerpted from the "International Herald Tribune Guide to Europe" (third edition, NTC Publishing) by Alan Tiller and Roger Beardwood.

Next Area

COSTA SMERALDA

Endless Weekends With ITT Sheraton

Don't know what to do this weekend? If you decide to visit the city of your dreams — Venice or Jerusalem, for example — or a seaside resort in Turkey, ITT Sheraton will offer you a very special deal.

ITT Sheraton's Endless Weekend packages for two people are available at 34 hotels in 30 countries in Europe and Israel. The price includes accommodation, continental breakfast and a "what-to-do" list with recommendations for shopping, dining, sightseeing, special events and other information.

Most of the hotels offer a \$50 voucher that can be used to pay for all incidental charges (excluding room rate and taxes) on your next Endless Weekend booking.

Eight ITT Sheraton hotels in seven destinations have recently been added to the program. The Hotel Pulitzer in Amsterdam, once 24 canal-front historic houses, has been beautifully renovated with individually decorated rooms. The Hotel Santa Maria de El Paular is a peaceful mountain haven in a 15th-century monastery just one hour's drive from Madrid. In Venice, two hotels — the luxurious Hotel Europa & Regina overlooking the Grand Canal, and the Belle Époque Hotel des Bains on the Lido — are both dream vacation spots. For a quiet beachfront holiday, there is the Hotel Cervo on the beautiful Costa Smeralda in Sardinia. The Art Nouveau-style Hotel Diana Majestic in Milan is

located in the heart of the city's business and shopping center. The Hotel Excelsior overlooks the Bay of Naples in an elegant district. The brand-new Sheraton Paris Airport Roissy, the most sophisticated airport hotel in Europe, will open its doors in February 1996. Other fabulous destinations in the Endless Weekend program are the Sheraton Ankara Hotel & Towers, Sheraton Voyager Antalya Hotel, Sheraton Brüssel Airport Hotel, Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh, Sheraton Essen Hotel, Sheraton Firenze in Florence, Sheraton Frankfurt Hotel, Sheraton Genova in Genoa, Sheraton Gothenburg Hotel and Towers,

Sheraton Lisboa Hotel & Towers in Lisbon, Sheraton Belgravia in London, Sheraton Heathrow in London, Sheraton Skyline at Heathrow Airport, Sheraton Aerogolf Hotel in Luxembourg, Sheraton Malmö, Sheraton Munich Hotel & Towers, Sheraton Padova Hotel, Sheraton Porto Hotel, Sheraton Roma, Sheraton Salzburg Hotel, Sheraton Stockholm Hotel, Atlantis Sheraton Hotel in Zurich, Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel & Towers, and Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza Hotel.

For reservations, call the toll-free ITT Sheraton Reservations office nearest you or your travel agent. U.K.: 0800 353535, Germany: 0130-853535, Italy: 1678-35035, France: 05 906535, Belgium: 0800 13535.

AT&T USADirect® Service, available in most ITT Sheraton hotels, lets you call the United States quickly, easily and economically from Lisbon or anywhere in Portugal by simply dialing 05017-1-288. And did you know that you can now place up to 10 consecutive calls without redialing your AT&T Calling Card number? Just press # instead of hanging up when the other party hangs up, when you hear a busy signal or when there is no answer.



OUR RATES LIKE TO RELAX DURING THE WEEKEND.

We make it easier to get away for the weekend with the Endless Weekend program: relaxed rates in nearly 40 hotels in Europe and Israel, including accommodations, continental breakfast, a wallet of vouchers with discounts for local attractions and a \$50 voucher upon check-out, to use on food and beverage and other extra comforts* on a future Endless Weekend stay. So with the money you save, you can discover even more great cities without worrying about the expense.

For more information or reservations, call toll free: United Kingdom 0800-353535, Germany 0130-853535, France 05 90 65 35, Belgium 0800-135355 and Italy 1678-35035 or your travel professional.



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Sheraton Brussels	BF	4,600
Sheraton Brussels Airport	BF	4,950
DENMARK		
Sheraton Copenhagen	DKK	1,090
ENGLAND		
Sheraton Belgravia/London	UK£	180
Sheraton Heathrow/London	UK£	95
Sheraton Styling/London	UK£	115
GERMANY		
Sheraton Essen	DM	230
Sheraton Frankfurt	DM	301
Sheraton Munich	DM	215
ISRAEL		
Sheraton Jerusalem Plaza	US\$	2,285
Sheraton Tel Aviv	US\$	265
ITALY		
Sheraton Firenze	LIT	180,000
Sheraton Genoa	LIT	150,000
Hotel Diana Majestic/Milan	LIT	230,000
Hotel Excelsior/Naples	LIT	255,000
Sheraton Roma	LIT	220,000
Hotel Cervo/Costa Smeralda	LIT	300,000*
Hotel Des Bains/Venice Lido	LIT	350,000*
Hotel Europa & Regina/Venice	LIT	330,000*
LUXEMBOURG		
Sheraton Aerogolf	FLUX	4,200
NETHERLANDS		
Hotel Pulitzer/Amsterdam	FL	385
PORTUGAL		
Sheraton Lisboa	ESC	26,500
Sheraton Porto	ESC	18,000
SWEDEN		
Sheraton Gothenburg	SEK	1,110
Sheraton Malmö	SEK	795
Sheraton Stockholm	SEK	1,140
SCOTLAND		
Sheraton Grand/Edinburgh	UK£	150
SPAIN		
Hotel Santa Maria de El Paular PTS		12,000
(Rosafria/Madrid)		
SWITZERLAND		
Atlantis Sheraton/Zurich	SFR	270
TURKEY		
Sheraton Ankara	US\$	130
Sheraton Voyager Antalya	US\$	140

* Seasonal restrictions apply

The Endless Weekend program is valid for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. (Rate applies to arrivals on Friday and Saturday only). Offer subject to availability. All conditions and rates are subject to change without notice. The Endless Weekend program is not combinable with other offers. \$50 voucher not applicable to room rates, taxes and service charges.

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You can understand computers
now. Or wait for your children
to explain them to you later.

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NYSE

Tuesday's 4 p.m. Close
(Continued)

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of subscribers. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them. The list includes names such as "John Smith", "Jane Doe", and "Robert Johnson", among others.

2. The second part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries. These notes are written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

3. The third part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second part. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

4. The fourth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second and third parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

5. The fifth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, and fourth parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

6. The sixth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, fourth, and fifth parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

7. The seventh part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

8. The eighth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

9. The ninth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

10. The tenth part of the document is a series of short, handwritten notes or entries, similar to the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth parts. These notes are also written in a cursive script and appear to be organized into a list or a series of paragraphs. The content of these notes is difficult to decipher due to the cursive script, but they seem to be related to the names and addresses listed in the first part.

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Softbank Investors Turn Sour on Stock

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO—Shares in Softbank Corp. fell nearly 9 percent on Tuesday on disappointment over the stock's performance since a late-November issue of 2.8 million shares, traders said.

Fears the company would issue more stock also contributed to the stock's decline, they said.

Softbank shares closed at 21,000 yen (\$207.7) on Tuesday in Tokyo, down 2,000.

Softbank is a wholesaler of personal-computer software and publishes related industry material.

A facsimile financial-news service said Tuesday that Softbank was planning to issue 70 billion yen (\$692.3 million) in convertible bonds in January to help finance its growth, a trader said.

That, combined with the fact that Softbank's share price has not regained its public-offer price of 24,750 yen since the issue, hurt sentiment, the trader said.

Separately, Ziff-Davis

Publishing Co., which Softbank is acquiring from Ernst & Young & Co. for \$2.1 billion, was expected on Tuesday to announce a partnership with Yahoo Corp., which operates a popular directory on the Internet's World Wide Web, executives close to the deal said.

The agreement calls for Internet Life, a fledgling Ziff-Davis quarterly introduced in October, to be renamed Yahoo! Internet Life, they said. Ziff-Davis publishes PC Magazine, PC Week and other popular titles.

In addition, the partners are to set up a site on the Web called ZD/Yahoo! Computing, which would be a guide to Web sites dealing with computer hardware, software and related topics. Ziff-Davis would be the sole agent for selling the computer-related advertising that appeared in the magazine, on Yahoo! and the ZD/Yahoo! site.

Both Ziff-Davis and Yahoo declined to comment.

(Reuters, NYT)

Indian Officials Investigating Stock Switches by Reliance

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOMBAY—The Securities and Exchange Board of India is investigating reports that Reliance Industries Ltd. switched some of its shareholders' stock certificates, people close to the case said Tuesday.

Executives at Reliance, a textile and chemical conglomerate that is India's largest private company, confirmed that the board was looking into 1992 transactions in which more than 5 million Reliance shares sent in by three companies for ownership transfer were switched with other certificates without the companies' approval.

Company executives called the replacement merely a technical flaw by Reliance's registrar, Reliance Consultancy Services.

The companies and shares switched in 1992 are Unit Trust of India, with 4.69 million shares, Peerless Finance, with 160,000, and Canara Bank group, with 170,000 identified so far. Canara's replaced shares could total as many as 2.5 million, Reliance executives said.

Unit Trust said the Reliance shares it purchased in two transactions had

different serial numbers from the ones lodged for ownership transfer.

Of the switched shares, 870,000 have since been replaced by Reliance. The remaining 3.82 million are being replaced, Unit Trust said.

Reliance said it had volunteered to replace all the shares that were found to be switched with the original shares.

The announcement came after the market closed; dealers said they were not satisfied and feared news of more such swaps.

Reliance shares fell 3.50 rupees (10 cents) to 201.50 on the Bombay Stock Exchange. On the National Stock Exchange it closed at 201.70 rupees, down 1 rupee.

The news of the investigation comes in the wake of a Reliance dis-

pute with the Bombay exchange over the handling of its shares.

Two weeks ago, Reliance asked that its stock be delisted after the exchange suspended trading in Reliance shares, saying the company had wrongly issued 40,000 duplicate shares to investors.

Reliance said it had done nothing wrong in the case, but, after the Bombay exchange refused the delisting, the company dropped the request.

Brokers had opposed the removal of the stock because Reliance had the largest weighting, at 11 percent, in the 30-share Sensitive Index, and feared that the delisting would render the index meaningless.

(Reuters, Knight-Ridder)

India's opposition Tuesday closed Parliament for the fifth straight working day in its fight with the government over the privatization of India's telephone system, Reuters reported from New Delhi.

Both houses of Parliament adjourned without doing any official business as the government sought to fend off accusations that it mishandled the privatization drive and lost billions of dollars in a tender to award licenses to private companies, both Indian and foreign, to operate telephone services.

Opposition leaders want a parliamentary committee to investigate the tender, a move the government says will delay the privatization program.

Local languages of Hindi, in the north, and Tamil and Telugu, in the south.

Sony, which is broadcasting its Hindi-language service into more than 8 million homes, has welcomed "ratings far beyond our expectations," according to William Pfeiffer, its senior vice president for Asia.

Two independent producers, Michael Solomon and Ashok Armitraj, are targeting the Tamil and Telugu viewers because "everyone else is targeting the Hindi-speaking population," said Mr. Solomon.

TELEVISION: Western Broadcasters Are Hoping to Capitalize on the Potentially Huge Indian Market

Continued from Page 13

space-age, aerial gymnastics. ESPN Asia, for instance, is routinely obliged to route Indian cricket matches through a foreign satellite base before the signal eventually aims in India.

Moreover, because of piracy, "foreign producers have not earned a single penny from program fees," Mr. McIntyre said. He said revenues have come from advertising and that the country's resistance to installing set-top boxes would continue to make it

difficult for cable suppliers to begin to charge fees for encrypted programming.

Meanwhile, those who brazenly pirate videos and satellite signals, cutting and pasting their own channels, have had their wings partially clipped.

With regulators having begun to enforce a licensing law passed earlier this year, their numbers have dropped to 40,000 from about 100,000, according to Jeffrey Hardee, Asia-Pacific vice president of the Motion Pic-

ture Association of America, the lobbying arm of the Hollywood film and television industry. The MPA, in cooperation with Indian authorities, is spearheading raids on the cable pirates that have led to equipment confiscation and impending lawsuits.

"We are concentrating on locating the duplicators of pirate programs," said Mr. Hardee, adding that Indian films as well as Western blockbusters continued to suffer from the widespread failure to pay copyright holders.

Some industry sources say that India produces more films than any other country in the world, and that its television production also is prodigious.

Local series are still overwhelmingly more popular than Western programs, even though foreign documentaries, cartoons and game shows thrive, said Bhuvan Lal, who owns an independent production company, based in Bombay, called Dream Factory. The secret for foreign investors intent on entering the Indian market seems to be programming in the major

local languages of Hindi, in the north, and Tamil and Telugu, in the south.

Sony, which is broadcasting its Hindi-language service into more than 8 million homes, has welcomed "ratings far beyond our expectations," according to William Pfeiffer, its senior vice president for Asia.

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SPORTS

Marino Breaks Another Record

By Charlie Nobles
New York Times Service

MIAMI — Dan Marino set another National Football League record on Monday night — this one for career passing attempts — and finally the Miami Dolphins' quarterback and his embattled teammates were able to enjoy a victory with it.

Marino broke Fran Tarkenton's record with his 6,468th pass attempt midway through the fourth quarter of Miami's 13-6 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs before 70,321 at Joe Robbie Stadium.

But the victory wasn't assured until Steve Bono's fourth-down pass to Webster Slaughter was knocked away by Terrell Buckley in the Miami end zone with 1 minute 51 seconds to play.

The victory kept the Dolphins alive for a playoff spot and broke a frustrating string for Marino and Coach Don Shula, who has been heavily criticized because of the team's 1-3 record over the past month.

The outcome was a welcome change for Marino, who this season has set records for touchdowns, passing yards and pass completions, and lost the game each time.

On Monday night, he threw 18 completions in 34 attempts for 156 yards, with one touchdown and one interception.

"I don't think I played well, or the offense as a whole, but because of the way our defensive unit played we beat a good football team tonight," he said.

The defense shut down the Chiefs in the first half and came up with two big fourth-down stops in the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs had already clinched the AFC West title, but the loss prevented them from clinching a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Bono, operating with a splint on the third finger of his passing hand to protect a torn tendon, had difficulty with his accuracy for much of the game. He finished with 15 completions in 37 attempts for 180 yards, one touchdown and one interception.

At the beginning of the third quarter, Marcus Allen hauled in a 23-yard pass from Bono to help move the ball to the one. But the Chiefs couldn't break into the end zone; Allen's run on fourth down was stopped short.

Soon, though, Kansas City was mounting another drive. This one ended at the Miami 27, when little-used fullback Donald Bennett was stopped for no gain on fourth and one.

Bono was fired on a 15-yard touchdown pass midway through the fourth quarter that got the Chiefs back in the game.

But the Chiefs' drive was short-lived. Marino, who had missed a 44-yard field-goal attempt earlier, flubbed the extra-point kick, hitting the left upright.



Dolphins' Bernie Parmalee, left, eluding Chiefs' safety William White for a 27-yard gain.

Denver Continues to Cruise

The Associated Press

Neither Dikembe Mutombo's foul trouble nor an ankle injury to Antonio McDyess could keep the streaking Denver Nuggets from winning their fifth straight game.

Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf had

NBA ROUNDUP

22 points and 10 assists and Bryant Stith scored 21 points for the Nuggets in a 104-91 victory Monday night over the Philadelphia 76ers.

Abdul-Rauf, who is averaging 22 points this season, made only one shot in five attempts in the first period, but connected on seven of his next 14, including two three-pointers.

Mutombo, playing only 31

minutes, managed 10 rebounds and nine blocked shots.

McDyess, the Nuggets' starting forward, left the game late in the second period. The rookie did not return.

About his foul problems, Mutombo said: "Hopefully, I'll be able to stay in the games, because our defense is anchored around me."

Philadelphia led 25-22 after the first quarter, but the Nuggets outscored the 76ers, 61-46, in the next two periods.

Dale Ellis was a big help, scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Philadelphia's coach, John Lucas, said the Sixers would sign veteran free agents Scott Skiles and Mike Brown on Tuesday.

Philadelphia played without Derrick Coleman, who was expected to be out at least a week with a sprained ankle. In addition, Vernon Maxwell was ejected after collecting two technical fouls in the second period.

Jazz 110, Hornets 100

Karl Malone had 24 points and Utah went on a 10-1 run in the last 90 seconds of the third quarter to take an 84-67 lead.

The Hornets, playing without forward Larry Johnson, who has a sprained ankle, were never closer than 10 points in the final quarter. Morris started the decisive run with a three-pointer and John Stockton capped it with another.

Glen Rice scored 19 points and Kendall Gill 16 for the Hornets.

Roy Saves Avalanche From Leafs, 5-1

The Associated Press

Few professional athletes have been as low as Patrick Roy was after he was demoted to the Montreal Canadiens. The man considered hockey's best goaltender for the

NHL ROUNDUP

last 10 years wanted a clean break, and he got it.

Roy was the main name in a five-player deal between the Canadiens and the Colorado Avalanche last week, and he earned his first victory with his new team Monday night, 5-1, over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I'm really happy," he said after his 30-save performance. Roy made several big saves early, then Craig Volanin and Adam Deadmarsh gave the Avalanche a 2-0 lead by the end of the first period.

"He made the big saves and I

think that gave our players the world of confidence," said Colorado's coach, Marc Crawford. "We had that feeling that if you go out there and play hard, you'll get that solid back-stopping behind you."

Toronto's Doug Gilmour scored the only goal of the second period, and the Avalanche put it away in the third.

Lightning 6, Sabres 1 Only 5,462 fans braved poor weather conditions to attend the game, which was rescheduled from Sunday after more than three feet (one meter) of snow fell in Buffalo and surrounding areas.

Jeff Reese, who is 2-0 with four goals allowed since being acquired from Hartford on Dec. 1, stopped 21 shots, and Tampa Bay scored three times in the second period.

Rangers 3, Stars 2 Mark Messier scored two goals, including the game-winner with

6:30 to play, as the Rangers extended their home unbeaten streak to 13 games. New York, unbeaten in its last nine, got 28 saves from Mike Richter. Dallas tied it, 2-2, on Darren Hatcher's goal 1:48 into the third.

Penguins 2, Devils 1 Radek Dvorak's game-winner with 10:25 to play gave Florida its first victory in six games at the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and extended its unbeaten streak to five. Gord Murphy also scored for Florida.

Flames 6, Kings 2 Theoren Fleury scored three goals in the second period, all set up by German Titov and all one-timers that beat goalie Byron Dafee from inside the top of the face-off circle or beyond. It was only the second victory at home this season for Calgary, while the Los Angeles lost its fifth straight on the road.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	16	4	.800	1
New York	15	5	.750	1
Atlanta	12	6	.667	3
New Jersey	9	10	.476	6
Boston	8	10	.444	7
Washington	8	10	.444	7
Philadelphia	3	15	.167	12

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	16	4	.800	1
Atlanta	15	5	.750	1
Indiana	9	9	.476	7
Charlotte	9	12	.429	8
Cleveland	8	11	.421	9
Boston	7	11	.389	10
Albuquerque	4	11	.263	13
Toronto	7	14	.333	16

WESTERN DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	12	5	.706	1
Utah	11	4	.730	1
San Antonio	14	6	.692	2
Dallas	11	9	.550	5
Phoenix	8	12	.400	8
Minnesota	5	12	.294	11
Vancouver	2	18	.100	17

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	12	5	.706	1
Lakers	11	5	.688	1
Portland	10	9	.524	3
Phoenix	8	10	.444	5
L.A. Clippers	7	13	.350	7
Golden State	6	12	.333	7

FOOTBALL

NFL STANDINGS

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Atlanta-Denver	25	(Abdel-Rauf	10),
Philadelphia	16	(Stockton	4).
Charlotte	22	24	21
Utah	29	24	31
C. Rice	7-13-3-4	12; G.W.	7-9-4-6
U. Malone	15-15	4-6	24
Morris	8-12	2-2	22
Rahmona-Charlotte	48	(Gasper	1), U.I.
U.I.	39	Morris	2).
Atlanta-Charlotte	21	(G.W.	2).
Utah			

OBSERVER

A Tribute to Scotty

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Scotty Reston died after the first edition last Wednesday. He was as good a newspaperman as I ever saw, and better than most. He learned his trade in the school of hard knocks. This taught him to prefer understatement and simple sentences to the long-winded flourishes once so common in American journalism.

In a rare criticism of a Times colleague he once wrote that Arthur Krock "thought a sentence couldn't be immortal unless it was interminable."

It was Reston's success in teaching the Times to talk in plain English and tolerate an occasional wisecrack that made possible the relatively literate paper we publish today.

Scotty did not have much use either for the show-off reporter who can't resist writing up a literary storm before getting down to the story.

"Why don't you just play it pianissimo?" he suggested if he saw that look in your eye suggesting you were about to give F. Scott Fitzgerald a lesson in high-class prose writing.

Pianissimo it shall be then.

Age never diminished the boyish Reston delight in the pleasures of journalism. Middle age takes the zest out of the sport for many reporters. Reporting, after all, is likely to seem unfulfilling for aging go-getters who yearn to make things happen. Mere watching doesn't always seem quite so amusing to people over 40.

The very best reporters, however, never tire of it. Their perennial childish curiosity, a reporter's greatest asset, never flags with age.

In Reston this combined with a childish delight in "scooping" the brotherhood. You could see

the pleasure it gave him to publish a "scoop" that would keep the opposition working past midnight to match.

Working at the State Department for him, I was constantly pressed for scoops on the most trivial ambassadorial appointments. "Why put so much effort into finding out what will happen tomorrow instead of doing a better job of telling people what happened yesterday?" I sometimes asked. This could only have saddened Scotty as evidence that I lacked the real stuff necessary to make a great reporter (which I did). For Scotty, getting your "scoops" was the exercise that kept you in shape.

When I think of him now the pictures that come to mind are of the young scoop artist at moments of high triumph. At Vienna in 1961, for example: Khrushchev and Kennedy have talked privately all day, and thousands of journalists mill through the Hofburg trying to concoct plausible stories from official briefings about "fruitful exchanges of views."

Despite an all-star cast, the Times bureau is equally helpless as deadlines close in. Then Da da da da — into the office struts James Barrett Reston.

Where has he been for the past hour? Having a private chat with President Kennedy, of course. Before starting his own story, though, he orients the rest of us. I can hear him still:

"This thing has been a disaster... Kennedy scared to death..." And for the color writer: "Kennedy's back is killing him."

This kid's joy in beating the rest of the gang was one of the strengths that helped make him one of the very best. That's an "Ave," Scotty, if you'll excuse the Latin. Pianissimo.

New York Times Service

The Crisis in French Cuisine: What Price Glory?

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — France's great restaurants are facing an unprecedented crisis: After the boom years of the 1980s, those long waiting lists have given way to empty tables.

At a time when French unions have brought the country to a transportation standstill, the fate of luxury restaurants may seem immaterial. But the restaurant crisis is not divorced from other facts of French life, like a severe economic downturn and radical changes in lifestyle.

The restaurateur Jean-Claude Vrinat, of Taillevent, a Paris landmark with three Michelin stars, put it this way: "Our 30 years of glory are over. Frankly, we have had things too easy for the past three decades. But we have to understand that the good days were the exception, not the rule. The French superiority complex is over. Now is the time for people to begin striving again."

The flip side is good news: Diners have never been able to eat better for less, as young and old chefs alike work to lure customers with bargain menus and lower wine prices.

Vrinat's comments — as well as the recent flurry of emotion caused by a full-scale downgrading of top chefs in the 1996 Gault-Millau restaurant guide — can be taken as a call to all restaurateurs: Re-examine your economic policies, and think of the consumer's pocketbook.

"Actually, the crisis is positive for the profession," said Joël Robuchon, one of France's top chefs with a Michelin three-star restaurant in Paris, who has said he will retire from the restaurant business to pursue other gastronomic ventures.

"Restaurant prices overall have gotten out of hand," he said. "Restaurants with one or two Michelin stars demand the same price as a three-star restaurant, and there is no way they can provide the same experience. The consumer is not stupid."

An average diner can spend 1,000 to 1,200 francs (\$200 to \$240) dining at a top French restaurant.

Robuchon predicts a return to the

1970s, when France had fewer luxury restaurants with top ratings.

Monique Pivot, the director of the monthly Gault-Millau gastronomic review and the annual guide, agrees: "The crisis in grand dining is a permanent one. The French will never live as they did before. The French are fearful of the future, and they've become squirrels with their money. When people choose restaurants today, there is only one criterion: the price of the meal."

This goes against the conventional wisdom, which was that, when it came to quality food, the French would never ask the price. They would pay any price for a great meal or bottle of wine. If quality fell, however, they would complain loudly and take their business elsewhere.

Many chefs saw the wave coming, and nearly a decade ago scurried to open "baby bistros," or smaller, more casual and less expensive establishments to complement their gastronomic ventures.

In Paris, Michelin two-star chef Guy Savoy still leads the way, with a series of highly successful satellite bistros — each with different names and different menus.

Outside Paris, where the grand restaurants are hit hardest by the crisis, many restaurants lure customers with less expensive weekday lunch menus while top chefs remain realistic, cautious and reflective.

"For me, it's a time to fine-tune the perfection we have tried to establish here," said Georges Blanc, whose family restaurant in Vonnas, not far from Lyon, now takes up much of the village, with a bakery, a bistro, a wine store and a gourmet shop as well as the Michelin three-star establishment.

Blanc, who tirelessly fights for the quality, production, and promotion of his native Bresse poultry, is confident that the traditions of his region are not in danger. Yet he is realistic about the present.

"Things will never be as they were in the 1980s. That we know," he said. "We are only happy now that we can maintain what we have, and continue to thrive."



There is hardly a grand restaurant in France that has not had to add other commercial ventures, whether it be a wine shop, a gift shop, a hotel.

"The top restaurants only make economic sense when the tables are full all the time. Otherwise, they can't make a go of it," said Alexandre Lazareff, director of France's National Council of Culinary Arts, a five-year-old government agency designed to safeguard the nation's gastronomy.

"It's time for the French to wake up," he added. "The government has

recognized the need to do something, for the economy of the cuisine is no longer a given. The French are no longer blessed by God. We have to fight for our cuisine."

In the past five years, the agency has educated thousands of French schoolchildren in taste; has established a program to identify, protect and promote traditional French products such as local cheeses, poultry, meat products and vegetables, and is in the midst of creating an extensive survey of traditional regional specialties before they disappear.

If there's a crisis at the top that's here to stay, what about the future of French gastronomy as a whole?

"That's safe," said Robuchon. "Today's top chefs such as Alain Ducasse in Monte Carlo or Olivier Roellinger in Brittany, are revising and updating French cooking. They are helping France rediscover its regional identity."

The Michelin two-star chef Guy Martin of Paris's Le Grand Vefour agrees. "Today's French cooking is about ingredients," he said. "Today a chef spends the major portion of his time personally tracking down the best and finest ingredients of a region, while in recent years everything was ordered impersonally, by telephone."

Lazareff also believes that the future of French gastronomy lies in the hands of regional chefs, who consider themselves part of a region first, and French second.

"The trend away from heavy Lyonnais food and toward lighter, more varied Mediterranean cuisine is the future," he said. "Chefs such as Ducasse are creating a new international school of Mediterranean cooking, mixing black truffles from France, white truffles from Italy, ham from Spain, olives from throughout the Mediterranean basin."

Outside the restaurant kitchens, French gastronomy faces a crisis of another sort. The nation's family charcuteries, featuring home-smoked hams and sausages and fanciful pastry-wrapped terrines, have all but died out, giving in to dietary trends and industrial producers ready to take their place.

Pivot says that today's consumer has less time to shop, less time to cook, and less time to eat what's put on the table.

"Quite simply, French women don't want to peel vegetables anymore," she said.

She remains optimistic, suggesting that gastronomy in France is far from dead, it is simply grappling with an adjustment to the present. "The one thing that will never change with the French, is that they will always *faire la fête*."

POSTCARD

The Architect Who Lights Up New York City

By Julie V. Iovine
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Just before the opening of the New Victory Theatre on West 42nd Street, Hugh Hardy, the architect responsible for the restoration of this, the oldest surviving theater in New York City, had only a slight case of the jitters.

A cluster of speakers had torn a chunk out of the proscenium, there were critics of the new rugs for the lobby, and Hardy himself was not thrilled with how some of the light fixtures turned out. "The usual," said the architect blithely, pulling a light bulb out of his coat pocket and hopping onto a trash can to replace a burned-out bulb. Such tenacity has become Hardy's signature in a career spent revitalizing New York's cultural institutions.

The reconstruction of the New Victory,

which opened with a gala on Monday night and will open to the public next Tuesday, marks no less than the inaugural step in the ballyhooed resurrection of the Times Square theater district.

From the renaissance of the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Center to the rehabilitation of the Joyce Theatre in Chelsea and the Majestic Theatre in Brooklyn, he is scarcely a cultural icon in the city with which the architect has not in some way been involved.

This year alone, Hardy has presided over the triumphant opening of the new restaurant at Bryant Park, which he designed in the grand-café European style; the start of construction on a completely new Windows on the World restaurant in the World Trade Center, as well as ambitious restoration plans for the comeback, in January 1997, of the New Amsterdam, 42nd Street's

most gaudy theater, as a family entertainment center under the aegis of the Disney Corp. "I'm known around the office as Mr. New York," said Hardy, 63, who was born in Mallorca and grew up in Tarrytown, New York. The architect's infatuation with the city can be traced, he said, to "that tender age when I used to sit alone in the balcony of just about every theater in Times Square watching second-run movies."

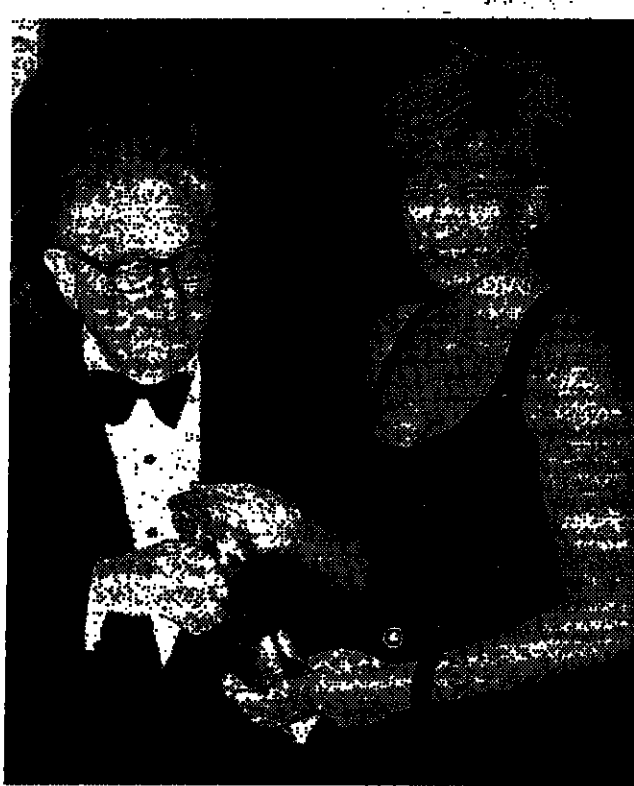
Hardy said his involvement with so many landmarks of the past has not made him nostalgic, though he would be the first to admit that the glory days — when the most experimental art, elegant prose and daring performances originated in New York — are long gone. "New York may not be the be-all-and-end-all of the Western World the way it was in the '20s," he said. "But it's still got a grip like no place else on reality. And it's still the premier marketplace of ideas."

PEOPLE

ON her first U.S. visit since

her television interview in Britain, Princess Diana was honored for her work for sick and underprivileged children.

"Let us demonstrate our humanity," said the princess, who received the United Cerebral Palsy's Humanitarian Award. "Let us not wait to be asked." At a dinner that raised \$2.1 million for the group, Diana received a standing ovation from a crowd that included Barbara Walters, Donald Trump and Henry Kissinger. Colin Powell received an achievement award from the group. Diana's speech — her only public appearance in a one-day visit to New York — comes at a time when she is seeking a formal ambassadorial role from Britain, saying she sees herself as the "queen of people's hearts."



Diana and Henry Kissinger at the awards ceremony.

The medical condition of Michael Jackson, who collapsed last week during rehearsal for a television show, had improved sufficiently for him to be discharged on Tuesday, a statement from the New York hospital said. The singer will still require bed rest and close monitoring by his medical team for several weeks.

Kim Basinger has agreed to pay up to \$3.8 million to resolve a dispute over her refusal to appear in the movie "Boxing Helena." The deal was reached as the actress and the production company, Main Line Pictures, were to retry their case after an appeals court overturned a \$3.1 million judgment against Basinger.

Frank Sinatra turned 80 on Tuesday, with accolades from friends and fans and speculation that he has decided to quit performing on anything but a rare occasion. "There is no

question about it: He has quietly retired," said the longtime Sinatra watcher and disk jockey Jonathan Schwartz, a man Sinatra once described as "knowing more about me than I do." "His last full performance was last Feb. 15 at a charity gala and interestingly the last song he sang that night was 'The Best Is Yet to Come.'"

Sydney has yet another landmark to go with its famous Opera House — a 12-meter (40-foot), flower-bedecked puppy, "Puppy," which contains 50,000 flowering plants and cost 1 million Australian dollars (\$735,000), is the latest from the American artist Jeff Koons. Koons said the sculpture was "a celebration of love and happiness." "I think it's

also about humankind's relationship to God," he said at the unveiling. "Puppy," which sits outside the Museum of Contemporary Art, will be on display until March 17 and is to return for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Libel damages won by Elton John against the Sunday Mirror for a story that claimed he was suffering from an eating disorder were called "manifestly excessive" by a British appeal court on Tuesday and cut back sharply. Damages totaling £350,000 (\$535,000) were reduced to £75,000.

A giant Christmas tree, presented by Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxis, has been

installed in St. Peter's Square under the windows of Pope John Paul II's apartment. THE 27-meter (89-foot) tree from the princess's estates in Bavaria, was given in memory of her husband, Prince Johannes, who died five years ago.

A dark green Aston Martin sports car that Prince Charles used to drive to polo matches was auctioned off for £111,500 (\$171,000) at Sotheby's. The proceeds will go to the Prince of Wales Charity Trust.

Natalie Cole's estranged husband says her request for a restraining order against him is a "cheap publicity stunt." As for Fischer, who produced the singer's "Unforgettable" album, contends she misrepresented or falsified abuse allegations in court papers to promote "Angel on My Shoulder," her forthcoming autobiography. Cole filed for divorce last month after six years of marriage.

The Bill Murray movie "Groundhog Day" will not have to share profits with a novelist, who featured the same theme. A court has thrown out a lawsuit brought by the writer, Leon Arden, who sought \$15 million because of similarities between the movie and his 1981 book "One Fine Day."

A 263-year-old Stradivarius violin, which disappeared nearly 30 years ago and fell into the hands of a woman who refused to give it up, has been returned to the University of California in Los Angeles. The university said it reached an out-of-court settlement with Teresa Salazar over the violin, known as "The Duke of Alcantara," and agreed to pay her \$11,500.

WEATHER

Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe									
	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Algeria	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Amsterdam	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Antwerp	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Athens	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Berlin	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Birmingham	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Bombay	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Buenos Aires	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Calcutta	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Cardiff	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Chennai	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Copenhagen	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Dallas	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Dublin	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Edinburgh	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Helsinki	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Hong Kong	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
London	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Los Angeles	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Madrid	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Moscow	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Mumbai	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
New York	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Osaka	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Paris	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Perth	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Prague	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08	10/00	12/08
Rangoon	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Rio de Janeiro	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Rome	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Sao Paulo	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Seoul	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Shanghai	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Singapore	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Sydney	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Taipei	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Tokyo	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08
Washington	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08	10/00	15/08
Yokohama	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08	22/00	28/08

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Denmark	00-800-0111	Egypt (Cairo)	010-0200	Brazil	008-0001
France	00-800-0111	Israel	077-100-2727	Canada	1-800-255-0288
Germany	0130-0010	Jordan	008-0001	Chile	1-224-0011
Greece	00-800-1311	Kuwait	008-0001	Colombia	008-0001
Hungary	008-0001	Lebanon (Beirut)	026-001	Ecuador	008-0001
Ireland	1-800-550-000	Oman	008-0001	El Salvador	008-0001
Italy	172-0101	Saudi Arabia	1-800-18	Guatemala	008-0001
Japan	001-800-0111	Syria	008-0001	Honduras	008-0001
South Korea	008-0001	U. Arab Emirates	008-0001	Mexico	008-0001
Spain	008-0001			Nicaragua	008-0001
Sweden	008-0001			Panama	008-0001
Switzerland	008-0001			Peru	008-0001
Taiwan	008-0001			Venezuela	008-0001
United Kingdom	008-0001				